

WARE RIVER NEWS

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Schools update provided to board

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – School Superintendent Dr. Marlene DiLeo came before the SelectBoard Tuesday to give members an update on the schools.

The district has multiple plans so it can easily change from hybrid and remote learning models to all remote learning if Ware's COVID-19 rate pushes it into the state's "red" zone and if the positivity rate rises to 5% or above, she said. The district would also look at what was happening within the district at the same time, she said. As of Tuesday, the district had four positive COVID-19 cases and 20 people in quarantine, she said.

On Jan. 2, the state released its weekly COVID-19 numbers for the previous two weeks, which moved Ware into the state's high risk or red category for the first time. The positivity rate is 5.09%, a rise over the previous week's 4.81% positivity rate. The rate and risk category are based on numbers between Dec. 13 and Dec. 26. The next set of statistics will be released on Thursday, Jan. 7.

It is expected that the town's positivity rate will continue to rise for at least a few weeks due to the

Please see **UPDATE**, page 3

Library shows signs of shifting

Repairs will likely be needed

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

HARDWICK – Members of the Paige Memorial Library's Board of Trustees came before the Hardwick Board of Selectmen at their last meeting, Monday, Dec. 28 via Microsoft Teams, with concerns they have about the library building. The trustees, Jackie Easter, Jenna Garvey, Jim Barnes and Peter Schmid, along with Director Julie Bullock, said there have been signs of movement at the library building.

The Board of Trustees said they were told back in 2017 the building was beginning to shift by someone doing preservation work. They said they had noticed it, but it did not seem that pressing until recently. The Trustees are seeing more evidence of this shifting happening, such as missing mortar between bricks, and a gap between the granite entryway and tile floor. Schmidt said the gap in the entryway has expanded in a short period of time.

Both Schmid and Barnes have spoken of their concerns to Phillip Warbasse, who was hired to evaluate the building and make recommendations on how to proceed to preserve the building. Bullock said they trust Warbasse's opinion. The trustees know they must address it and have a permanent solution to save this historic building. Bullock shared several photos to the selectmen, showing the half-inch gap that separates the entryway and tile floor, as well as the missing mortar between bricks in the front of the building. She said the shift seems to center around the façade with the columns.

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 2



Turley Publications staff photo by Paula Ouimette

The Paige Memorial Library building is showing signs of shifting, and library trustees would like a structural engineer to take a look at the building.

Water plant funding plans discussed

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – After a presentation on funding for the proposed \$13.3 million water filtration plant from Mark Schrader, of Tighe & Bond, Tuesday at the SelectBoard meeting, Town Manager Stuart Beckley said he and Department of Public Works Director Gilbert St. George-Sorel would put together funding recommendations for the board soon.



WARE HAS DONE A REALLY GOOD JOB OF RAISING ITS (WATER) RATES. SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO KEEP UP WITH COSTS."

MICHAEL SCHRADER
TIGHE & BOND

The plant, which would be built at the Barnes Street pumping station, would filter out iron and manganese from the water supply before it can bind together with chlorine. The chemical is used to kill viruses and bacteria. If the minerals get bound with the chlorine, the water can be brown and it can ruin laundry as well. It has been determined that the water is okay to drink. The DPW has returned to flushing the water system twice a year, which has helped much of the water to remain clearer.

Schrader told SelectBoard members Tuesday that while the proposed water filtration plant is certainly the most expensive project at \$13.3 million, it is not the only one the town's water system needs in the coming years.

There are about \$9 million of other projects the system needs, which are scheduled to be done over the coming years, he said. They range from a generator at well 4 of the Dismal Swamp well for \$500,000 to rehabilitating the Anderson Road and Church Street water tanks at \$1.5 million each to

Please see **WATER**, page 5

Parker St. fire remains under investigation



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau

The multifamily home at 8 Parker St., which burned on Dec. 29, was heavily damaged and on the third floor was burned front to back. It remains under investigation.

State Fire Marshal's office involved in case

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – A fire that heavily damaged a multi-family home at 8 Parker St. on Dec. 29 remains under investigation by the Fire and Police departments as well as the State Fire Marshal's office, according to Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon. They are working to determine whether it was a case of arson or an accidental fire.

The fire, which was reported at 9:06 a.m. that day, displaced 12 to 14 people on three floors, he said. The top floor was burned from front to back, and the first and second floors suffered smoke and water damage. The building remains inhabitable, Gagnon said.

The Red Cross responded to the scene and gave the residents vouchers for housing that night while others went to stay with friends or family, he said.

Gagnon said the owner, Todd Russo, has said he wants to renovate the building.

Fire departments in Warren, Palmer and Hardwick provided mutual aid at the fire and the Belchertown Fire Department provided temporary EMS ambulance coverage for Ware.

Regional public safety dispatch center pursued

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – SelectBoard members voted Tuesday to have Ware Police Chief Shawn Crevier investigate the town joining a regional public safety dispatch center after hearing briefly from him and WESTCOMM Regional Communications Executive Director Erin Hastings.

"We are one of the few police departments that take their own 911 calls," Crevier said. "These calls are extremely complicated and extremely technical." He said 911 dispatching has become a profession in itself and it was time the town explored what its options are.

Please see **DISPATCH**, page 2

Main Street buildings need attention

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – The SelectBoard briefly discussed several buildings in poor condition on Main Street, one of which needs to come down as soon as possible and a second that needs to be stabilized or demolished.

SelectBoard Vice Chairman Keith Kruckas asked about the Community Development Authority's decision to take unspent fiscal 2019 Community Development Block Grant Funds toward other uses than originally voted.

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The building at 92-104 Main St., the site of a fire several years ago, is also in poor condition.

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Lesser issues statement on final MassDOT East-West Rail report

REGION – On Monday, Senator Eric P. Lesser (D-First Hampden and Hampshire) issued a statement in regard to the release of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation East-West Passenger Rail Study final report.

“After more than two years of effort, our state has completed a feasibility analysis of East-West Rail service between Pittsfield and Springfield to Boston,” Lesser said. “This report is an important step in moving this project from conception to reality. I want to thank the countless advocates, community organizations, business organizations, elected officials, and everyday citizens from every corner of our Commonwealth who wouldn’t take no for an answer and demanded state-wide rail investment.

“The study comes at the right moment given President-Elect Biden’s long history of infrastructure advocacy, and his passion for train transportation in particular, along with his nominee to be Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg.

“As MassDOT acknowledges, the study remains incomplete. Most importantly, the ridership estimates are far too low and do not reflect comparable rail links around the country or the economic growth the rail line will spur. The study also does not take into account the significant environmental benefits from the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as tens of thousands of cars are taken off the road.

“I look forward to working with MassDOT, our state legislative delegation, as well as our federal partners such as House Ways & Means Chairman Richard Neal, House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern, Senator Warren, and Senator Markey to make statewide passenger rail service a reality.”

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — As of Jan. 3, 2021, the Tri-Parish Community Church is worshipping at the New Braintree Congregational Church at 10 a.m. Social distancing is easily attained in

the large church and masks are required. This Sunday’s, Jan. 10, service will be led by Deacon Marguerite Crevier. All are welcome to attend.

LIBRARY from page 1

The Paige Memorial Library building, located at 87 Petersham Road off the Hardwick Common, was constructed beginning in 1905 and completed in 1906 or 07. As to why the building is shifting, the Trustees are unsure. Bullock said when they added more stairs in the front of the building, they took away dirt, and there has also been road work in recent years – they have no way of knowing if these factors contributed, or if this is just a natural shift in the structure. The Trustees want a structural engineer to look at the building and determine what needs to be done. Bullock she will reach out to the company that restored the rotten woodwork back in 2017, and see if they can recommend structural engineers. The Trustees will form a task force to oversee the repairs to the building.

Board of Selectmen member Julie Quink asked about the process to hire a structural engineer. She said the library is a town-owned building, but she is unclear on the town’s responsibility in this matter. Quink said she appreciates the Trustees have a task force to address this issue, and she feels the selectmen should be involved in the process since it is a town property. Board of Selectmen Chairman Kenan Young questioned the Trustees as to where the money would come from to hire a structural engineer. Barnes said the role of the task force is to secure the funding and that the money will come from the library’s endowment fund – not from the town. Barnes said due to potential liability if the structure is indeed unsafe,

they would like to have a structural engineer come in as soon as possible. The selectmen agreed they should clarify the town’s responsibility regarding the library building with town counsel.

Garvey asked if the town has insurance that could cover any potential building repairs if the structural engineer deemed it a safety issue. Board of Selectmen member Kelly Kemp said she has worked in insurance, and in most cases, natural shifting of a building would not be covered, but that it would be good to ask. Garvey said it would be nice to know if insurance could cover some of the costs before the Trustees delve into their endowment. Kemp asked if the building inspector has inspected the library building. Barnes said they have not heard from the building inspector yet. Young asked Cofske to follow up with the building inspector to have the building situation addressed.

Bullock said the Paige Memorial Library is not open to the public right now, as they are just doing curbside pickup of library materials. Young suggested closing the front entrance and having library staff use the other entrance. Bullock agreed to do that.

Both Young and Town Administrator Theresa Cofske requested that the trustees appoint one of their members as a contact person with the town, to streamline the communication process. Cofske said she feels it is important to make sure the building is safe, and to also find a way to communicate more efficiently. Cofske said it is difficult at times to communicate with multiple people regarding the same matter.

Are You Old News?



Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.



Last week’s photo was of eighth grade members of the Pee Wee Cheerleading squad showing off the trophies they received at the recent Pee Wee league party. Left to right were Suzanne Desforges, Michelle McCrystal, Margaret Sullivan, Catherine Kularski, Kathleen Mongeau and Andrea Daley. It ran in December 1975.

Any readers who can identify the people in this week’s photo should send the identifications and their full name to ekennedy@turley.com.

Smola announces grant for the Quaboag Connector

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the town of Ware will receive \$129,200 in grant money for the Quaboag Connector. This funding will be administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation as part of their Community Transit Grant Program. This competitive program awards funds to help meet the transportation and mobility needs of seniors and people with

disabilities.

“This grant is great news for people in our community who could use a little help getting around,” said Smola. “The Quaboag Connector is a wonderful resource and I would like to extend my appreciation to all of their drivers and staff.”

The Quaboag Connector offers transportation to residents of Belchertown, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Monson, Palmer, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. For a cost of \$2 (\$4

roundtrip), the Connector provides rides within the Quaboag region. Trips related to employment and education are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rides to work, job training programs and other job-related destinations take first priority. To request a ride, local residents should call 413-544-3401.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

DISPATCH from page 1

“When those 911 calls come in you are married to the call,” he said. “Everything else has to be put off.” As additional calls come in it makes it difficult, he said, and being part of a regional dispatch center would allow an additional officer per shift to be out on the street to respond to incidents.

“We think this is a beneficial avenue to go for the townspeople,” he said.

Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon agreed. “Boots need to be on the ground,” he said of police and firefighters who must man communications in their respective stations. Although the Fire Department is not the primary call taker, it must keep a firefighter on duty to monitor communications. Sometimes staffing levels mean the department must call in additional staff to monitor the phones before heading out to a call, he said.

Crevier said he and Gagnon would be exploring several region-

al dispatch centers to see what would work best for the town before making a recommendation to the board.

Hastings said the state provides a lot of funding support and for Ware, should it join WESTCOMM, the first three years would be free. It would have to pay \$180,000 up front for the first year, and that much or more for year two and three, but that money would be all re-imbursed, she said.

In the fourth year, the town would get 50% of its costs back and in the fifth year, it would get 25% of its costs back, she said. After that the subsidies end.

She also pointed out that officers would no longer have to receive 911 certification so the Police Department would not have to send people to training and call in others on overtime to take their places during training. Crevier said the liability that comes with 911 communications would no

longer be on the town, but would transfer to the regional dispatch center.

WESTCOMM would also be able to use state funds to replace equipment such as new radios for officers, she said.

The regional dispatch center is located in the Chicopee Police Department, but will be moving to a new building it purchased in Chicopee.

Crevier said when the town joins a regional center, the Police Department will remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We’re not going to have a black police department,” he said. “We have too much of a connection with the community to go dark and not be here.” The department has many walk-ins so it would remain open, he said.

Crevier said they hope to have figured out proposals from each dispatch center and have a recommendation to the board at its Feb. 2 meeting.

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During pandemic unemployment fraud more likely

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

One of the most vexing things about identity theft is not if it can happen to you, but when.

That’s especially true for those applying for unemployment benefits. Now that laid-off employees and underemployed independent contractors – aka “gig workers” – who exhausted their benefits since early 2020 are eligible for financial help from the new round of federal COVID-19 relief passed by Congress late last year, fraudsters are likely to pounce. Again.

The surge in cases of people whose identities were hijacked by thieves who were able to masquerade as unemployment claimants and steal those benefits last year raised alarm bells. After that wave, employers and workers are urged to stay alert for the next wave of thefts.

“Criminal enterprises in possession of stolen personal information from earlier national data breaches have been attempting to file large amounts of illegitimate unemployment claims through the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance system,” according to a post on mass.gov.

“This is part of a national unemployment fraud scheme.”

Enhanced security measures by the state could help, though officials urge patience.

“The Department of Unemployment Assistance has begun implementing additional identity verification measures that will temporarily delay the payment timeframe for many unemployment claims in Massachusetts,” the post states.

“As a result of these measures, certain unemployment claimants may be asked to provide additional identity information in order to verify the validity of their claim.”

A big part of the problem is that so much personal information is available for fraudsters and hackers to mine. Whether it’s social media, online banking, subscribing to streaming services, making purchases online, or just simply having a history and an email address, nearly everyone who uses the internet is vulnerable.

Business people warned

The keynote speaker for a recent virtual meeting of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce addressed the crime of opportunity that led to 58,000 fraudulent claims that netted identity hijackers \$158 million last year, according to data from mass.gov.

Evan Murphy, director of client development for the Springfield-based company Unemployment Tax Control Associates, explained how easy it can be for individuals and companies to become vulnerable.

“If you think about Equifax, the credit reporting authority, when you’re going to pull your credit for anything, what are you providing? You’re providing them basically carte blanche to go pull your information – your employer, your employment history, your wages, your address and [Social Security number],” he said.

Last year might have been a wake-up call for the commonwealth, Murphy said, while most states experienced the same type of crime.

“But it does seem like the Department of Unemployment Assistance Massachusetts has had a a tougher go of it than a lot of the other states,” he said. “Very early on, like Washington State was actually shut down for three days because they got so jammed up with unemployment fraud claims and they said we can’t take any more new claims. We’ve got to figure this whole thing out.”

As a firm specializing in helping businesses navigate the unemployment insurance landscape, UTCA has niche experience. Murphy said the company has extended services even further than it could have imagined in the past year.

“At the beginning of COVID, we never wanted to be an out-sourced customer service arm for the Department of Unemployment Assistance, and we don’t hope to be, but sometimes it’s helpful because a lot of what we have to do

with our clients is help them understand the rules and understand how the unemployment works,” he said.

Some of the business owners or representatives attending the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce meeting said their company and employees have been targeted. Murphy said the numbers can be staggering.

“Recently, we received 75 claims for a client in one day and only three of them were real. So right now it’s a little bonkers,” he said.

‘But within the last two or three weeks, the DUA made some really good steps. But it’s a give and take a little bit. They now have gone to greater lengths to verify validity with claimants, but we’re getting reports that in some instances it’s stalling payments for actual legitimate claims.”

Act immediately

Anyone who believes someone has applied for unemployment benefits using their personal information, should use the DUA secure fraud reporting form at mass.gov/unemployment-fraud to alert the agency or call the DUA customer service department at 877-626-6800.

For more information at UTCA and its services, go to utcainc.com or call 413-732-8084.

Hardwick Board of Selectmen notebook

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

Right of first refusal waived

The Board of Selectmen was presented with a waiver of right of first refusal Chapter 61A for the Robinson property, known as lots 3A and 3B on North Road. Board of Selectmen Chairman Kenan Young said that all involved department have signed off on this. Board of Selectmen member Julie Quink made a motion to waive their right of first refusal for the North Road property. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

License renewals

Selectmen approved the Class III annual motor vehicle license for Leo Tamkus, d/b/a L & S Used Auto Parts, 51 Cleveland Road, Wheelwright.

Mayflower quotes accepted

The Board of Selectmen approved the Board of Assessors recommendation to accept quotes from Mayflower Valuation Inc. for fiscal 2022. The selectmen approved the quotes, which totaled \$3,600.

COVID-19 policies

The Board of Selectmen approved the adoption of new COVID-19 workplace policies for town employees. Employees would be required to fill out a survey daily. Each department head would keep those surveys on file for their department.

EMS correspondence

Julie Quink said the board received an anonymous letter from a concerned citizen, in regard to emergency medical services provided by West Brookfield Rescue Squad. Quink said that West Brookfield Rescue Squad President, Dan McCall will address the concerns stated in the letter. The contents of the letter were not discussed at the meeting. Quink said she will also reach out to the state’s Office of Emergency Management Services to see if there is any validity to the claims of the letter writer.

Upcoming meetings

The Board of Selectmen will meet on Monday, Jan. 11 and Monday, Jan. 25 via Microsoft Teams. Information about joining the meetings and the agendas can be found on the town website, www.townofhardwick.com under Calendar.

Generous benefactor offers St. Aloysius a matching grant of \$35,000 toward scholarship drive

GILBERTVILLE – St. Aloysius Catholic School has been blessed with a pledge of \$35,000 in matching funds toward the school’s 2021-2022 scholarship drive. The benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has supported the school in this initiative since its inception in 2016.

“Our benefactor is pleased that we have been able to provide a full-time, in-person learning experience for our students since Sept. 2, our first day of school,” said Roberta McQuaid, the school’s director. “We are so proud of how our teachers have responded to the challenges that COVID-19 has dealt and just as proud of the students for how they have adapted to new protocols. This fall, we welcomed a number of new families to St. Aloysius and have begun to receive calls about the 2021-2022 school year already, thanks to a number of ‘word of mouth’ recommendations.”

The school recently launched a new, responsive website, https://staloyisuscs.com. “Prospective parents and donors are encouraged to use the website to take a closer

look at St. Aloysius Catholic School. Here they can meet the staff, and take a peek at the current calendar and newsletter, and find all of the necessary enrollment paperwork,” said McQuaid.

Last year, the scholarship drive raised slightly less than \$25,000. With matching funds, a total of \$49,858 was divided up to reduce tuitions for each of our 62 students. “If we are blessed to reach our full match, we will increase this discount. Currently, with the scholarship, the cost is \$2,800 a year for a returning family’s first student in grades K to 8, with a discount for siblings and a premium for the five-day preschool program. This equates to as low as \$20 per day,” McQuaid said. Tuition rates will be set for the 2021-2022 school year after the drive ends in March.

The Pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Father Richard A. Lembo, is proud of what the school has accomplished in five short years, and is hopeful that donors will contribute to the scholarship drive. “Providing a foundation of Catholic faith for the students through their education is so

important,” he said. “Their faith in God will support them through their entire life.”

St. Aloysius Catholic School’s unique mission includes operating in a family-centered environment that provides Faith Formation, innovative academics, and a commitment to the local community. The school serves students in preschool through eighth grade.

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax deductible donation by credit card that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Scholarship Fund, please visit the “Support” section of https://staloyisuscs.com. Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line. Donations to the Scholarship Fund received prior to March 15th will help reduce tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year.

For more information email Roberta McQuaid, Director, at rmcquaid@staloyisuscatholic-school.com or call the school at 413-477-1268.

Flags of Hope video launched by task force

WARE – A video of the Flags of Hope, created by community members, will be released Jan. 6 by members of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force.

When the 6th annual Walk Against Abuse was cancelled last fall due to COVID-19, members of the Task Force decided it was time to do something uplifting and strengthening for 2021. They asked community members to make flags responding to the question, “What does connection and respect look like in our community?” The group then collected over 75 flags and created a short video that will be released broadly on Jan. 6.

The video starts by explaining the connection between the flags and domestic violence. Mutual respect is the foundation of a

healthy relationship. By promoting respect as a community norm, the Task Force hopes to support a community culture that prevents abuse. Strong connections prevent the isolation that allows domestic violence to flourish. By promoting community connections, the Task Force hopes that anyone who experiences abuse will reach out and get support as soon as possible. Task Force members also want to focus on the positive given how difficult 2020 has been for all communities.

The Task Force was founded in 2000 and works to prevent and respond to domestic violence in Ware, Hardwick

and Warren. The Task Force is comprised of community members, community service providers and local survivors of domestic violence. To learn more, contact the Task Force by Facebook, www.warevtaskforce.org, 413-758-0605 or wrvdtaskforce@gmail.com.

The video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oewCAbSgm98, which is a four-minute version, and at orhttps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMO_04UVT7s, a two-minute version.

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UPDATE from page 1

Christmas holiday season when family and friends gather more frequently, according to Health Director Judy Metcalf.

While Metcalf was not at Tuesday’s meeting, she has said in past School Committee and SelectBoard meetings that just as Thanksgiving led to a rise in COVID-19 numbers, it was expected the same thing would happen after Christmas. Having most people indoors much of the time is also helping to spread the virus, she said.

The School Committee met on Dec. 23 and discussed what the criteria would be for closing the schools due to rising COVID-19 rates. They were leaning toward it being two weeks of the town being in the red zone with a 5% or more positivity rate, but decided they would vote on it at their Jan. 6 meeting to give members a few

more days to think it over.

DiLeo said the district expected to bring back more students after Jan. 27, the end of the second term, as families want to change from all remote to the hybrid model. Some families also want to change from hybrid to remote, she said.

DiLeo also said the district was working on plans for the eventual return of more students, but the reduced school bus capacity and six-foot social distancing limits make it difficult right now. “Some

of those things may get adjusted,” she said.

SelectBoard member John Morrin told DiLeo he believed the district had no plan in place to trigger a change to remote learning, but she disagreed. She said the School Committee had agreed to the two-week of high risk and 5% positivity rate as the criteria to switch gears to remote learning.

“We have three separate plans and we could switch on a dime tomorrow,” she said.

The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.



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GUEST COLUMN

History Matters

By John Grimaldi
and David Bruce Smith
Guest columnists

January 1 to January 15

Whatever you call it: “Continental Colors,” “Congress Flag,” “Cambridge Flag,” or “Grand Union Flag,” it was the first national flag of the United States. According to historical lore, George Washington unveiled it Jan. 1, 1776, during the American Revolution, but the stars and stripes motif encompassed a replica of the British flag in the upper left-hand corner.

“It was sort of a compromise between the radicals who wanted to see a separate nation, and the people who were more conciliatory, and wanted to see some accommodation with the crown,” according to historian and flag expert David Martucci.

The History Channel noted in June of 1777 that “the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating, ‘the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white’ and that ‘the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.’”

To learn more, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Kevin Keim’s and Peter Keim’s “A Grand Old Flag: A History of the United States Through its Flags.”

It is difficult for the iPhone generation to fathom the complexities of communication throughout history. For decades, telephones used hard-wired landlines to commence a call. And before that: the telegraph – an invention by Samuel Finley Breese Morse, who demonstrated its “efficiency” via an electrical impulse on January 6, 1838. It came with a code that Morse created using dots and dashes--instead of the alphabet--to move a message from point A to point B.

He formulated the idea in 1832; by 1838, with the assistance of his two partners, Leonard Gale and Alfred Vail, he had a working model. Morse requested funding from Congress to make the prototype. It included construction of overhead wires between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, but the legislators demurred.

Five years later, he garnered the approval, and the money, to proceed; on May 24, 1844 Morse sent his first telegraphic message: “What hath God wrought.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Lewis Coe’s “The Telegraph: A History of Morse’s Invention and Its Predecessors in the United States.”

The U.S. Constitution was signed into law by the delegates of the Constitutional Convention in September of 1787. It structured the federal government, explained the essential laws of the country and guaranteed basic rights for every citizen.

But it was not the first American Constitution. That inaugural document was written and adopted on Jan. 14, 1639, by the settlers from the original Massachusetts Bay Colony, who had migrated to the Connecticut River Valley. It was known as the Fundamental Orders.

According to History.com, “Roger Ludlow, a lawyer, wrote much of the Fundamental Orders, and presented a binding and compact frame of government that put the welfare of the community above that of individuals. It was also the first written constitution in the world to declare the modern idea that ‘the foundation of authority is in the free consent of the people.’ In 1662, the Charter of Connecticut superseded the Fundamental Orders, though the majority of the original document’s laws and statutes remained in force until 1818.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends A. Chamberlain’s “The First Constitution Of Connecticut: The Fundamental Orders.”

History Matters - A biweekly column courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which show's the nation's children that their past is prelude to their future.

Editor's Note: Reader Deb Adamczyk shared this poem she found recently among her family's papers. It does not credit who wrote the poem. It does say in a footnote “some descriptive poet who flourished in days gone by, gives the following metrical account of the town of Ware, Massachusetts.” Searching for a source she found it noted in the “Genealogy of the Bliss Family in America from about the year 1550-1880” published by John Homer Bliss in 1881. It was noted in a reference to Ebenezer Bliss, a Ware resident, 7/12/1776-11/10/1827.

Dame Nature once, when making land,
Had refuse left of stone and sand:
She viewed it well, then threw it down,
Between Coy’s Hill and Belchertown,
And said – “You paltry stuff, lie there,
And made a town and call it Ware!”

All-America Selections for 2021 named

With the holidays behind us it’s time for a pick-me-up. Nothing cheers me more than dreaming about my next garden. I love the early planning stage most of all and it starts about this time each year. Seed catalogs begin to arrive in the mail and the glossy photos and “flowery” dialogue lure me to open the pages and curl up with a notebook and a warm cup of tea. I began this yearly ritual over three decades ago and it never grows old. Perhaps you are a like-minded soul who also thinks this is a good way to pass a cold winter evening.

When perusing the catalog, no doubt you will come across the All-America Selections badge of honor next to certain flower, herb, perennial or vegetable varieties. What exactly does it mean to be an AAS winner? You’ll be glad to learn more about this trusted organization and what receiving its award means for your garden.

For the last 88 years, the distinction of All-America Selection has been bestowed on new, worthy cultivars of our favorite plants. They are awarded this honor after thorough testing at independent trial grounds throughout North America, with the nonprofit organization’s motto being “tested nationally and proven locally.” AAS judges compare new flower introductions to those that are already on the market, searching for such desirable

characteristics as novel flower color and form, fragrance, length of flowering and disease or pest tolerances or resistance. Vegetables are evaluated similarly, with judges contrasting uniformity, ease of growth, harvest-time and disease tolerance and more with already established varieties. After assessing the plants throughout the growing season scores are tabulated and those with the highest average are considered to be worthy of an AAS award. Let’s learn more about two of this year’s winners.

Celosia Kelos Candela Pink is a 2021 AAS flower winner. For those of you who know and love plumed celosia, this is your pick. Judges touted this plant as an “Energizer Bunny” bloom-wise. Foot tall bright deep pink flower spikes rise above foliage that tops off just under two and a half feet tall. Flowers are long-lasting and unlike some celosia, keep their color throughout the season. Judges agree that Kelos Candela Pink is great filler for mixed containers, adding height and textural interest but it also succeeds as a landscape plant either in mass plantings or borders. Reportedly it also dries well too, although I will believe it when I try it for myself since most celosia are prone to shattering. This AAS winner is available in plant form only.

Another winner that I am very excited

about is Zinnia Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor. This new addition to the ever-popular floriferous and disease resistant ‘Profusion’ series starts out with a vibrant red center surrounded by golden yellow petals only to transform into shades of pink, apricot and salmon as it ages. Perhaps the next best attribute of this winner after its alter color ego is that it maintains a compact size of about a foot tall. This winner is versatile, too, succeeding in containers, hanging baskets, mixed plantings and en masse. Another bonus: pollinators love it! Profusion Red Yellow Bicolor is also the recipient of the Fleuroselect Gold Medal award for performance in European trials.

Because testing is local, I feel confident when I purchase plants or seeds of past or present AAS winners and with proper care they should live up to their description in my own garden. For more information and a full list of winners past and present, log on to www.all-america-selections.org. Here you will find many steady Eddies of the garden world.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Help make the world a little better

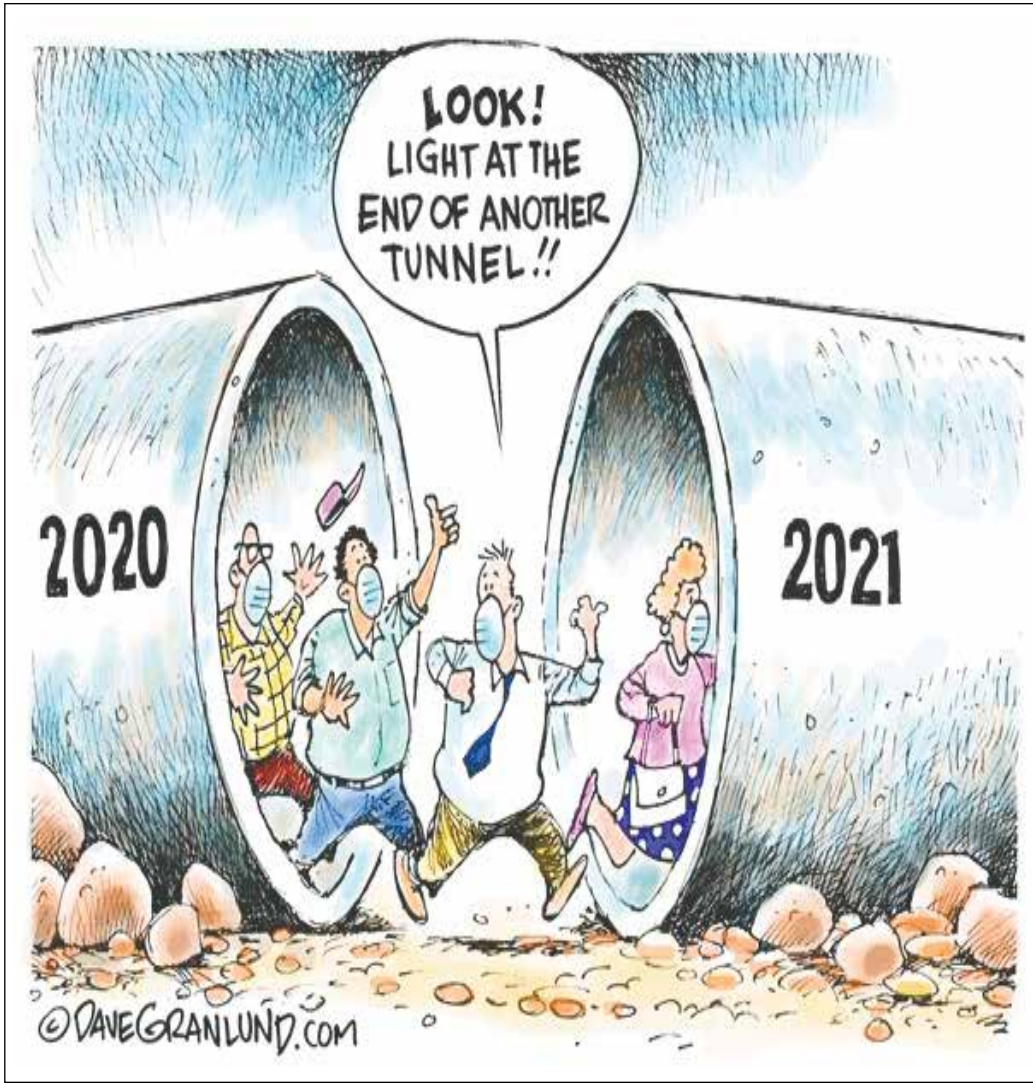
Hi, I’m Charlie Lask owner of Nat Falk’s and I’m writing firstly to thank all my customers for making this a great holiday season. With all that’s going on in the world especially with the pandemic small businesses being forced to close all over the place. I believe a newfound awakening is being realized by a lot of people.

Small business is the lifeblood of communities and people are realizing how important it is to support them. A lot of people are really hurting right now, especially people that rely on the entertainment business to make a living, and bars and restaurants. When you’re at a restaurant, tip as generously as you can for good service because with COVID restrictions, the servers have far fewer tables to wait on. Ware has always shown itself to be a community that supports each other in times of need. I known in my business I’ve seen it this holiday season and I’m very grateful.

What I’d like to see is some permanent good come from the crazy world and pandemic we’re all living through. And that is a stronger sense of community. Give when you can, help when you can and maybe we can come out of this with the world being a little bit better place.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021,

Charlie Lask



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: It is common knowledge that over the decades politicians have taken billions if not trillions of dollars out of the Social Security fund to finance other government programs. This information is never published or addressed and having the government repay this money back to Social Security is never discussed, as it seems to be the most logical solution. When the Social Security program is financially viable again, future changes to the program can be discussed in a more meaningful way. Signed: Informed Senior

Dear Informed: I’m afraid that what you refer to as “common knowledge” is actually a common myth, pervasive on social media but nevertheless not accurate. Here at the AMAC Foundation we have thoroughly researched this charge, and reality is that every dollar ever contributed to Social Security since the program’s beginning has been used only to pay benefits to beneficiaries, or to pay for the cost of running the Social Security Administration (administrative costs are about 1%). Any surplus revenue exceeding program cost was deposited into the Social Security Trust Fund as “special issue government bonds” which pay interest (at 2.2% for 2019). As of the end of 2019, there were nearly \$2.9 trillion in assets held in Social Security’s Trust Funds, and none of those assets have ever been used for any purpose other than Social Security.

Some of the myths you may have heard include:

- That President Kennedy used Social Security funds to pay for the Peace Corp

- That President Reagan used Social Security funds to pay for his Strategic Defense Initiative

- That President Johnson used Social Security funds to pay for the war in Vietnam

None of these are true, but the one which gains the most visibility is the last one. And that comes from an accounting gimmick that President Johnson used back in the 1960s to make the federal debt look less than it was. When Johnson realized the federal balance sheet didn’t reflect assets held in the Social Security Trust Funds, he arranged for that balance sheet to reflect Social Security reserves as a federal asset, which masked the size of federal debt. But no Social Security money was ever taken out of the Trust Funds and, indeed, this accounting “gimmick” was reversed in the 1980s so that Social Security’s reserves no longer partially offset the federal debt in the government’s financial reporting.

I know how pervasive these allegations are, and I also know that some Americans will never be convinced that politicians have not accessed, and cannot access, Social Security’s money. But by law, Social Security’s assets can be used only for Social Security, and nothing else.

Some say that the assets in the Trust Funds are merely IOUs and that the actual money has been used by politicians. The Trust Funds assets are interest-bearing investment instruments which can be redeemed on demand by the Social Security Administration, as needed to pay Social Security program costs. Those “special issue government bonds” are backed by the “full faith and credit” of the United States government which, in investment circles, is viewed as primarily risk-free. If they

are “IOUs,” it is in the same sense that the assets in a stock and bond portfolio are IOUs.

Social Security’s current financial issue stems from steadily increasing life expectancies and the declining ratio of workers to beneficiaries. People are now collecting Social Security benefits for decades instead of a few years, and the number of beneficiaries is steadily increasing (about 64 million today). Simultaneously, there are now only 2.8 workers per Social Security beneficiary compared to, for example, 1960 when there were 5.1 workers for every beneficiary. Both these realities have resulted in the need to withdraw assets from the Trust Funds to fully pay benefit obligations. And, according to the Social Security Trustees, those Trust Fund reserves will be depleted in the early 2030s, resulting in an across the board cut in benefits – unless Congress acts soon to restore Social Security to financial solvency.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor at AMAC.

WARE RIVER NEWS



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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and “Your Turn” guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
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or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.

2021 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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MAIN ST. from page 1

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said \$90,000 originally voted to go toward multifamily property code enforcement will be put toward other projects as it has to be spent by March 31. While the CDA voted on Dec. 14 to change what the money will spent on, there will be a public hearing Monday, Jan. 11, at 6:30 p.m., on Zoom to hear what residents and officials think of the proposed changes. The Zoom meeting ID number is 784 604 1861 and the passcode is 01082.

The CDA voted to spend \$23,000 of the \$90,000 toward an engineered demolition plan for 114 Main St., which has been deemed unsafe by Building Inspector Anna Marques and the SelectBoard. The board ordered the owner, 114 Main St. LLC, to pull the building down by Oct. 1, which did not happen.

The vote is an effort to move forward with taking the building down by any means necessary, according to the CDA.

The building must come down as it is holding up the Main Street redesign project, which should begin paving in the spring.

An article calling for the town to demolish the building is also on the Special Town Meeting warrant, slated to be taken up on Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 6:30 p.m., at the Ware Junior Senior High School. It is thought it will cost at least \$400,000 to demolish, and possibly more. A Special Town Meeting was held outside last summer with just that topic on the warrant and voters did not approve the town demolishing the building.

An eye is being kept on the rise of COVID-19 cases in town and Beckley said town officials will know by Thursday, Jan. 14, whether it is wise to go ahead with it. On Jan. 2, the state released numbers showing Ware to be considered a high risk or red community on the



Turley Publications staff photo by Paula Ouimette

The brick building is 114 Main St., which has been declared a nuisance building by Building Inspector Anna Marques, and ordered pulled by down by the SelectBoard. It needs to come down due to its unsafe condition and the fact it is holding up the Main Street redesign project.

statewide map, and that the positivity rate for the past two weeks is now 5.09%, a high number.

92-104 Main St.

Kruckas also said he wants to see Duc Ha, of Newton, the owner of 92-104 Main St., be more responsive to the town. Ha said he has been putting off any meaningful movement fixing or stabilizing the building for at least eight months.

In August Marques and a Fire Department officials inspected that building and found many safety issues, including the fact the building still had power and remained

unsecured. Among the issues found were holes in the floors, beams left unsupported, temporary roof not replaced, combustible materials between the buildings, evidence of dumping, missing masonry walls, the foundation compromised in several areas and excessive variance in the floor pitch. There were also several areas vulnerable to break in and an exposed stairway entrance.

Other CDA projects

The vote also included putting between \$35,000 to \$45,000 toward the demolition of 13 and 15 Parker St., both of which the town now

owns. One building is a single-family home and the other is a garage. Both buildings will be pulled down and provide expansion of the Parker Street parking lot. The plan will provide a better connection to Veteran’s Park and downtown. Money to pave the lot will have to come from another source.

Also voted was \$15,000 toward lighting improvements along North, Pleasant and Bank streets. It will include flood and street lights to improve safety and visibility to connect pedestrians to the downtown area. It will also help make the Pleasant Street municipal parking lot a more desirable place to park and walk downtown.

WNEU competes in Boston Regional Fed Challenge

Ware student part of team that competed

SPRINGFIELD – Three students from the Western New England University College of Business competed in the Boston Regional Fed Challenge. The WNE Fed Challenge Team, represented by finance majors, Brendan O’Brien, of Ware, Nathan Rosenkranz, of East Longmeadow, and Vincent Viturale, of Southington, Connecticut, competed against a number of distinguished colleges and universities in the state including Holy Cross, Boston College, Bentley, Yale, Northeastern, Babson, Harvard, Tufts, UCONN, Bates, Boston U, Dartmouth, UMASS, Clark, Bryant, Middlebury, and Bard/Simon’s Rock. This is the first time WNE has competed.

The College Fed Challenge is an annual academic team competition for undergraduate students in which participants analyze current economic and financial conditions, and formulate monetary policy recommendations, modeling the Federal Open Market Committee. Students are required to create a professional presentation and deliver it to a panel of judges consisting of academics and professional economists. The

15-minute presentation is followed by a 10 to 15-minute question and answer period.

“The monetary policy our team recommended was great. They focused on small businesses recommending tax breaks for all small businesses that did not lay off their employees, and Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness for all small businesses,” said College of Business Visiting Professor of Accounting & Finance Wayne A. Durr. “The challenge committee had nothing but praise for the way our students performed and represented our University. One of the things I’m most proud of, is that we received a perfect score on teamwork and cooperation. This is indicative of these young men and our University. As their faculty advisor, I could not be prouder of the way these young men competed.”

The team plans to represent Western New England University in Boston next year and advance to the championships in Washington, D.C.

Western New England University is a private, independent, coeducational institution. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield. It Western serves 3,825 students, including 2,580 full-time undergraduate students.

Skyfields Arboretum to host winter tracking on Jan. 16

ATHOL – On Saturday, Jan. 16 Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust is offering a wildlife tracking workshop at Skyfields Arboretum with tracking expert Paul Wanta. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, at the trust’s headquarters located at 1461 Old Keene Road. The group will explore the trails of the open meadows and the woods and wetlands of the Lawton State Forest while looking for signs of wildlife. The workshop teaches basic skills on how to spot, identify, and interpret different tracks found during the winter season. Marielena Lima, Communications and

Engagement Coordinator says, “This is a great opportunity to learn a skill that most are not familiar with anymore and discover what animals call these woods home”. The tracking workshop has been put on by the trust for numerous winters. Last year, attendees were able to spot and follow signs of rabbits, deer, wild turkeys, and porcupine. This event is open to the public, free to Mount Grace members, and \$10 for non-members. Registration is required and can be done at mountgrace.org. Please register in advance as this workshop is limited to 15 attendees.

WATER from page 1

about \$5.6 million in water main replacement projects over six years.

“Capital improvements are the biggest driver of rate increases,” he said. “We felt the biggest capital lead, the water filtration plant, is roughly 60 percent of the total, but there are a lot of other projects that are needed.”

He also reviewed three options for funding the plant: paying it all from the Water Enterprise Fund, a combination of using water rates and 25% coming from general funds and a combination of rates and 50% from general funds.

A graph he presented showed that by using the rates and 50% percent from the general fund, any increases in the base fee and the rates would be less than if it was funded with 100% water rates or with 25% coming from general funds.

Water rates and real estate taxes would have to increase in order to pay for the project. If it were funded 100% by water rates, property taxes would not rise due to the new plant. In all three funding scenarios, the base and consumption rates will both have to rise, according to the funding graphs used by Schrader.

Currently, ratepayers are charged \$36 for the first 500 cubic feet of water they use, and then \$5.75 for each 100 cubic feet of water beyond that. The water rates in both the base rate and the consumption rate were increased in fiscal 2018, fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021.

“Ware has done a really good job of raising its (water) rates,” Schrader said. “Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with costs.”

He also showed according to his calculations, if 50% general funds were used, the

effect on the average Ware homeowner would be about an additional increase of \$65 a year in their real estate taxes for the life of the loan. That increase would only pay for the water filtration plant, not other projects as well.

If 25% general funds were used, there would be about a \$32 increase to real estate bills each year to pay for the plant, according to a graph he used.

To be conservative, Schrader used a 4.5% interest rate. SelectBoard member John Morrin questioned if there could be a lower rate, and Schrader said it would depend on the town’s bond rating and other factors.

A discussion of the equity of who bears the cost of the new plant focused on all real estate taxpayers shouldering part of the cost and ratepayers shouldering part of the cost through rate hikes. Those who

ratepayers and taxpayers would have a bigger burden. A number of residents who live away from downtown do not have town water and have their own wells.

Schrader said that there is benefit to everyone in town to be sure businesses and other residents have good water.

SelectBoard Vice Chairman Keith Kruckas asked about grant possibilities through the new federal Clean Water For All Act might provide grant money for such the water filtration project or other projects, which Beckley said are a possibility.

Beckley and St. George-Sorel will return to the board with their recommendations in the near future.

Much of the presentation can be found on the town’s website at <https://tinyurl.com/yxj6f6bb>.

JOB POSTING

Community Engagement Coordinator
Quaboag Hills Prevention Partnership & Town of Ware

Overall Duties:

The Community Engagement Coordinator will work closely with local, town-based prevention teams to strategically initiate, coordinate and sustain proven prevention strategies aimed at reducing underage youth and young adult alcohol, nicotine, marijuana and prescription drug use. Will attend local prevention teams meetings, assist with outreach and recruitment of local team members and will assist the local teams to create and implement annual action plans that are fully aligned with region-wide goals, objectives and action plans. He/she will work with local team ‘captains’ to engender support for substance use prevention. Will also work as part of the broader Prevention Partnership team to contribute to and ensure that required fiscal and programmatic reports are completed.

Qualifications:

B.A. or B.S in Public Health or related field preferred. Prior experience in health-related outreach/communications, meeting facilitation, community organizing and health planning.

Knowledge of and skilled at outreach, follow-up, data collection, community presentations. Excellent writing skills, including reports and promotional materials; knowledge of the workings of municipal government; strong computer skills including knowledge of social media tools. Must demonstrate: sensitivity to, and awareness of cultural, racial, ethnic, economic, and social diversity including LGBTQ; awareness of community strengths and culture; ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders; ability to work independently and as part of a team; ability to maintain objectivity, fairness in dealing with people.

Salary & Hours:

Position is a town of Ware employee and funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); position is 28 hours per week with potential for the job to become full-time in the future. Hours are primarily 9-5 Monday through Friday; some evening/weekend meetings and events.

To apply for the position, E-mail a Cover Letter and Resume to:

Gail Gramarossa, Project Director, Quaboag Hills Prevention Partnership
ggramarossa@townofware.com



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- Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title, if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo.
- Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera, or sized at least 20 inches wide at 72 resolution, 10 inches wide at 200 resolution. They may be emailed as attachments to ekennedy@turley.com.
- Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before they take place.

We will respond to all email messages received.

If you don’t have e-mail, please mail these materials to:

80 Main Street, Ware MA 01082

Monson Savings Bank prepared for 2021 leadership transition

Two longtime Monson locals to lead bank forward

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank’s leadership transition plan announced earlier in 2020 has been a success with the bank well-prepared for the transition taking place in February 2021. Daniel Moriarty Sr., the current president and future CEO of Monson Savings Bank, will be carrying on the bank’s legacy following the retirement of Steve Lowell, the bank’s president and CEO for the last 10 years. Michael Rouette will be leading alongside Moriarty as the executive vice president and chief operating officer.

“Dan is highly qualified for this role. He has an abundance of experience in community banking and has been instrumental in Monson Savings Bank’s success over the last 22 years. He is a true local to area and has a unique understanding of the market we serve,” said Lowell. “He knows and cares about these communities and is passionate about continuing to provide them with the best community banking service and support. We look forward to his leadership and the new successes he will help bring the bank.”

As of October 2020, Moriarty Sr. was named president of Monson Savings Bank. He will assume his role of president and CEO of Monson Savings Bank fol-



Courtesy photo
Michael Rouette, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; Steve Lowell, CEO of Monson Savings Bank and Dan Moriarty, Sr., current President and future CEO of Monson Savings Bank.

lowing Lowell’s retirement effective Feb. 14.

Moriarty has been with Monson Savings for 22 years. He joined the bank in 1998 as an accounting manager, working his way up, and most recently Moriarty served as the bank’s senior vice president and chief financial officer since 2011. “Humbled and honored,” are the words Moriarty used to describe the trust placed in him as the next leader.

As a lifelong resident of Monson, Moriarty’s in-depth understanding of the bank’s local neighborhoods give him a unique insight into what a community bank means to the area. That along with his experience, knowledge and dedication to community banking

made him an optimal successor to fill the role of president and CEO.

An alumni of Monson High School, he then graduated with honors from both Providence College and the National School of Banking at Fairfield University. He is heavily involved in the local community through outreach efforts including his roles as East of the River Chamber Board of Director, Baystate Health Eastern Region Community Benefit Advisory Council, Community Foundation of Western MA Volunteer Grant/Scholarship Reviewer, Brightside Golf Classic co-chair, Pro-Am Shriners Hospital Golf Tournament co-chair, Monson Home for Aged Board Member, Finance Committee Member

and confirmation teacher of St. Patrick’s Church in Monson, and Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach of Monson High School.

“I have deep roots in the communities Monson Savings Bank serves. I was born, raised, went to school here, bought my first home, happily married and raised my children here. I still proudly call Monson and Western Massachusetts my home,” said Moriarty.

Likewise, Michael Rouette, recently named executive vice president and chief operating officer, also has a long local history with Monson and Western Mass. In fact, he and Moriarty grew up together, are longtime friends, and both attended Monson High School and then worked alongside one another at Monson Savings Bank for years.

Rouette has been with Monson Savings Bank for over 30 years and began his career at Monson Savings Bank in 1987 as a teller. In addition to being an alumni of Monson High School, he graduated from Old Dominion University, the Massachusetts School for Financial Studies at Babson College and the Graduate School of Banking in Colorado. He is a board member of the YMCA of Greater Springfield.

“I am so happy to continue my career with Monson Savings, a local bank truly focused on our customers,” said Rouette. “We care about their well-being, their financial health and work hard to continually optimize the way we operate to best serve their banking needs. Both personal and business banking customers can feel confident that when they place their trust in Monson Savings Bank that they will be well taken care of.”

Rouette and Moriarty both appreciate and embrace the values that differentiate Monson Savings Bank from its competitors. A keen focus on customers, providing personalized attention, innovative banking tools and creating a positive work culture for Monson employees being just some of the distinguishing factors.

“Michael is a positive and

knowledgeable leader who inspires others to bring their best to the table,” said Lowell. “On top of his many years of community banking experience, his local roots and commercial lending background give him a distinctive link with our local business community. Dan and Michael’s long connection as friends, teammates and colleagues, their local roots, their innovative thinking and their respected leadership approach are the reasons why they are a perfect and dynamic team to lead Monson Savings Bank forward. Monson Savings Bank is in good hands.”

Lowell has been the president and CEO of Monson Savings Bank for the last 10 years. Following his retirement on Feb. 14, 2021, Lowell will continue to serve Monson Savings Bank in the role of chairman of the Board.

At the start of Lowell’s 10 year tenure as President and CEO in 2010, Monson Savings Bank had five offices with \$237 million in assets and 60 employees. Under his leadership the bank saw immense growth and remained fiscally strong. Monson Savings Bank now has seven locations, including five branches, \$510 million in assets and 95 employees.

Lowell was instrumental in spotting growth opportunities that would allow the bank to provide customers with high quality and convenient service, including the opening of the Loan and Operations Center in Wilbraham and the new branch location in East Longmeadow. Along with Moriarty, Lowell recognized the importance of providing customers with digital banking, online account opening and online application options.

Lowell has been heavily involved in the local community and plans to continue his support and service to the area. His involvement over the years includes the roles of board member and past chairman of the United Way of Pioneer Valley, a corporator and Finance Committee member of the Monson Free Library,

a Community Benefits Advisory Council Board member of Wing Memorial Hospital, a board member of the Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association, past chairman of the Depositor’s Insurance Fund and a board member of the Massachusetts Bankers Association. He will continue his service as chairman of the board for the Baystate Health Eastern Region, board member and treasurer of the Western Mass EDC, a Finance Committee member for Baystate Health and as a board member of the Depositor’s Insurance Fund.

“All of us at Monson Savings Bank have found Steve’s leadership and support over the years to be invaluable. Monson’s growth and success over the last decade is in large part to his leadership. He developed a culture of respect and teamwork that fostered a positive and productive work environment, allowing every team member to feel invested and happy with their work,” said Moriarty. “I look forward to continuing forward with the culture he has established.”

Incorporated as a mutually chartered community bank in 1872, Monson Savings Bank has the longest tenure of service and stability in its market. Civic leaders chartered the bank with the intent to give working men and women the opportunity to save, which – incredibly, they could not do prior to the bank’s inception. Today, Monson Savings Bank retains its legacy of empowerment through savings, but has expanded to serve its customers with a variety of innovative financial services, including digital banking, online mortgage applications, business banking and commercial lending.

The bank has expanded on its promise of “where people save, businesses prosper, and communities benefit” by opening offices in Hampden, Wilbraham, Ware, and most recently East Longmeadow, Massachusetts. The bank also opened a retail and business loan operations center in Wilbraham in 2020.

Monson Savings Bank welcomes Anita Richard

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank recently announced the hire of Anita Richard as vice president and residential operation officer.

“We are incredibly happy to welcome Anita Richard to our team here,” said Dan Moriarty, president of Monson Savings Bank. “Anita’s experience in residential lending, compliance and customer service have already proven to be a great asset to our customers and to our entire team. We look forward to her continued contributions which will surely benefit us all.”

Anita Richard resides in Wilbraham with her son. In her role as vice president, residential operations officer, she is responsible for planning and organizing the residential and consumer lend-

ing operations, including streamlining loan processing, closing and servicing. She also manages the staff in the residential and consumers lending departments.

She has over 31 years of experience within the banking industry, 27 years of which has been focused in the mortgage lending area. She most recently served as the home lending compliance manager at Berkshire Bank and Savings Institute Bank and Trust where she was responsible for all residential lending regulatory compliance. Prior to that she was the director of mortgage operations at Alden Credit Union, managing the daily operations of the residential lending area as well as compliance and loan servicing.

“I am very excited to join



Monson Savings Bank has hired Anita Richard as its vice president and residential operation officer.

Monson Savings Bank and work alongside their amazing residential lending team,” said Richard. “After 27 years in the mortgage business, I still really love what I do. I look forward to bringing that enthusiasm to work every day in order to help continue the service excellence that Monson Savings Bank is known for.”

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USDA INSP. FRESH 1/2 BONELESS PORK LOIN..... **\$1⁶⁶** lb

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USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF **\$4⁴⁴** lb

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USDA INSP. STORE MADE TERIYAKI MARINATED BEEF SKIRT STEAKS..... **\$6⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN **\$6⁷⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS **\$6⁶⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKS or SPOON ROAST **\$3⁹⁹** lb

CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK USDA INSP. TWIN PACK WHOLE CHICKENS FRESH. **99c** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$3⁰⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN ... **\$1³³** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN BREAST BONE-IN 10 LB BAG **99c** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN ASSORTED BROWNIES LARGE 4 PACK **99c** ea

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Photos Encouraged

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Or email:
ekennedy@turley.com

Baby's First Name: _____

Parents (names & hometown): _____

Siblings (names & hometown): _____

Maternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Paternal Grandparents (names & hometown): _____

Birthdate: _____ Additional info: _____

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Region dealt major blow as T-Birds cancel season

SPRINGFIELD – This week, the Springfield Thunderbirds announced that they are one of three AHL franchises that have elected to opt out of play for the upcoming 2020-2021 season. The decision, made in conjunction with their NHL Affiliate, the St. Louis Blues, was based on numerous safety and logistical concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic and will allow the organization to turn its full focus towards the 2021-22 season. The Thunderbirds will maintain their status as active members of the AHL and return to play next season.

Thunderbirds President, Nathan Costa offered the following statement about the decision:

“Over the past few months we have worked tirelessly with the St. Louis Blues to explore every possible avenue for returning to play this season. Unfortunately, due to health and safety concerns, travel logistics, new player supply rules, and other considerations the Blues and Thunderbirds collectively determined that it was in the best interests of all parties to opt out for this season. Given the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in Massachusetts, it has also become clear that we will be unable to host fans at our games in the foreseeable future. As an independently-owned franchise, our foremost obligation is to ensure that our team is financially viable for the long term, something that is not possible without gameday revenue. Our organization has built one of the most exciting stories in all of professional hockey and remains as committed as ever to building upon that success in Springfield. We continue to have a strong relationship with the St. Louis Blues, the City of Springfield, the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, and all those who have both been helpful and supportive during this time. We have already turned our attention to next season and are actively

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 10

Football committee mulls tourney options

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – While the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is just hoping to have a regular football season much like the fall and winter modified seasons, the Tournament Management Committee and Football Committee of the MIAA is thinking about life after the pandemic.

The pandemic took away the traditional 2020 fall season and football is supposed to take place during a Fall 2 or “bubble” season, which begins in late February.

However, assumingly, in the fall of 2021, when high schools are seemingly going to be able to play under normal conditions and with a normal schedule that includes tournaments, a new football tournament will be forthcoming.

It seems like long time ago that the member schools of the MIAA voted in favor of dropping the sectional tournaments in favor of one statewide tournament, that in the case of many sports, will include a 32-team bracket with the opportunity to play in if a team finishes with a .500 record.

But in football, a .500 record does not guarantee entrée into the tournament. That has always been the case as Western Massachusetts football teams had a ranking system that put the top four teams in each division in the playoffs. Football also had more than the four divisions many other sports like soccer and basketball have.

The Football Committee of the MIAA began meeting recently about the issue. One plan was presented by the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association.

The plan would have a 10-game, but 12-week regular season concluding on Thanksgiving. In recent years, the regular season was ended after eight games, with qualifying teams playing playoff games in weeks 9 and 10, the state semifinals between Week 10 and Thanksgiving, and Thanksgiving Day’s game a simple exhibition. In a lot of cases, teams qualifying for state final games would not play regulars on Thanksgiving to guarantee health in the state finals.

The coaches’ association proposal would restore Thanksgiving as a regular season game. The association also submitted a plan for a nine-game schedule with playoffs starting before Thanksgiving and finishing after as it is currently constituted.

A group of Eastern Mass. coaches and athletic directors have also developed seven and eight-game proposals that would entail having 16 teams qualifying for a state tournament in each division under the seven game, and eight teams per



Options for a new football playoff format, which will feature a statewide tournament beginning in the fall, are being considered.

division in the eight-game season. Under both proposals the state finals would actually take place before Thanksgiving, and teams would again play Thanksgiving games as exhibitions.

With all the proposals out, the Football Committee has developed a survey to be sent to principals and athletic directors for feedback. A decision on the playoff format will hopefully be made sometime in the spring in time for scheduling to take place.

As of press time, the MIAA has not made any decision about any type of playoffs for the modified football season taking place in February. There will be no playoffs for the winter season, and the fall season also did not have any tournaments.

Arguments against extending the football season further into December specifically include making winter athletes wait too long between seasons to start basketball, hockey, and wrestling.

Could rival matchups on Thanksgiving be in danger depending on what direction the MIAA goes in for playoffs.



Thompson to hold virtual race series

THOMPSON, Conn. – Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will come to virtual life three times during the winter months, as a new iRacing series will give drivers and fans a chance to prepare for the 2021 season. In a series promoted by Souza Media, full-time Modified, Late Model & Super Late Model drivers from across New England will compete in three different races -- including the virtual historic Thompson 300 -- with one-race in January, another in February and a final in March.

The series will help preview the real-life season at Thompson for 2021 -- which is slated to begin with the annual Icebreaker weekend from April 9-11, and hold six oval events, promoted by the American Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series. All three iRacing events will take place on Saturday, Jan. 23, Feb. 20 and March 20 -- and will all begin with the drop of the green flag at 2 p.m. The feature races will air live, in full, on Extreme Sim TV, via Facebook and YouTube. Qualifying heat races, consolation races and a B-Main will be conducted prior to the



Submitted photo

A virtual racing series is set to take place later this month.

broadcast start.

The three iRacing events will include an opener with iRacing’s SK Modified, previewing

the Sunoco Modified season at Thompson, on January 23, for a

Please see **RACE**, page 9

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available, sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the

players’ safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, & 2/8

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, & 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.

The WMBUA’s first year members

class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East

Winter sports scheduled to begin next week

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Winter sports are scheduled to get underway next week, with practices beginning on Jan. 11.

Practices were originally scheduled to start on Jan. 4, but the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference made the decision to move back a week, though at this point, it is very unclear how many schools will be participating in the winter season and whether or not those teams will have to further modify schedules.

While the PVIAC wanted to give Western Mass. schools time during the month of December to secure permission to play sports through school committees, health departments, and other public officials, some of those permissions were contingent on the various criteria surrounding current coronavirus cases.

In the case of Holyoke, the city needed to be out of the “red” and no longer labeled a high-risk community by Dec. 24, and remain out of the red for three weeks in order to begin practices on Jan. 11. However, that has not happened.

Additionally, schools like West Springfield and Belchertown are among those that will not play communities that are red, further complicating the scheduling.

As of the Dec. 31 Department of Public Health report, most town and cities in Western Massachusetts in Hampden and Hampshire County are in the red and considered high-risk as the second surge continues, especially with rising numbers following the holiday season.

Some schools also have agreements with teachers’ unions regarding how schools will proceed in the event a community goes into the red. In many cases, a high school’s coaching staff is included in the union negotiations.

In one bubble, Agawam, Westfield, and West Springfield all have permission to play, but Hampshire, Holyoke, and Northampton are question marks.

There are also further modifications for the ice hockey schedule as fewer schools have hockey programs in Western Massachusetts. One thing you will not see in the modified winter season is a team like Agawam or Minnechaug making its way to the other side of the state to play other teams in Central and Eastern Mass. Bubble play is limited to teams in the region. One bubble will feature all of the teams in the Berry Division, Agawam, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Minnechaug, Westfield, and West Springfield, with Amherst added into the league this year. Amherst has been one of the top Division 3A teams in recent years.

Teams that are allowed to begin playing actual games could do so in about two weeks.

Basketball, swimming, and ice hockey were the sports approved to take place this winter. The season normally starts in mid-December.

Longmeadow’s classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at http://wmbua.org.

public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, Dec. 28
12:33 a.m. Ambulance Request Turkey Street – Referred to Other Agency
2:26 a.m. Alarm Burglar Main Street – Services Rendered
2:40 a.m. Parking Complaint West Main Street – Citation Issued
7:36 a.m. Ambulance Request Pine Street – Services Rendered
9:03 a.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Services Rendered
10:36 a.m. Accident, Vehicle South Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
11:08 a.m. Ambulance Request Walker Road – Services Rendered
11:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Church Street – Written Warning
1:01 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Main Street – Services Rendered
1:31 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
2:41 p.m. Alarm Burglar Church Street – Services Rendered
9:54 p.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Referred to Other Agency
11:52 p.m. Ambulance Request Highland Village – Services Rendered

Tuesday, Dec. 29
2:08 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
2:08 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
2:12 a.m. Parking Complaint Dale Street – Citation Issued
2:32 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Avenue – Citation Issued
2:39 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Street – Citation Issued
9:04 a.m. Fire, Report Parker Street – Investigation Pending
9:04 a.m. Fire, Report Parker Street – Investigation Pending
9:05 a.m. Fire, Report Parker Street – Services Rendered
3:49 p.m. Fraud Greenwich Plains Road – Services Rendered
4:30 p.m. Ambulance Request Fisherdict Road – Investigated, Report Filed
7:01 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
10:34 p.m. Ambulance Request Cummings Street – Referred to Other Agency
10:53 p.m. Ambulance Request West Main Street – Referred to Other Agency

Wednesday, Dec. 30
2:04 a.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued
2:09 a.m. Parking Complaint North Street – Citation Issued
2:22 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued

2:26 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
2:28 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
6:39 a.m. Investigation Glendale Circle – Arrest, Felony Charge
Arrest: Jessica L. Charbonneau, 40, Ware
Drug, Distribute Class B; Drug, Distribute Class B; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class A; Drug, Manufacturing a Class B; Drug, Possess Class B; Drug, Possess Class E; Drug, Posses to Distribute Class B; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B
12:35 p.m. Fraud North Street – Services Rendered
1:44 p.m. Ambulance Request Mirabile Drive – Referred to Other Agency
3:11 p.m. Alarm Fire South Street – Services Rendered
3:15 p.m. Silent, 911 Call Main Street – Services Rendered

Thursday, Dec. 31
2:37 a.m. Parking Complaint Aspen Street – Citation Issued
2:46 a.m. Parking Complaint Walnut Street – Citation Issued
2:55 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
2:59 a.m. Parking Complaint Otis Avenue – Citation Issued
3:09 a.m. Parking Complaint Park Avenue – Citation Issued
3:24 a.m. Parking Complaint Mattson Boulevard – Citation Issued
3:30 a.m. Parking Complaint Parker Street – Citation Issued
10:30 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Street – Services Rendered
10:45 a.m. Ambulance Request Palmer Road – Services Rendered
12:51 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Greenwich Plains Road – Referred to Other Agency
2:13 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Services Rendered
4:57 p.m. Ambulance Request Malboeuf Road – Referred to Other Agency
6:53 p.m. Ambulance Request Spring Street – Referred to Other Agency
8:27 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Ware Road – Referred to Other Agency
10:16 p.m. Assault East Street – Unfounded Complaint

Friday, Jan. 1
12:17 p.m. Missing Person Malboeuf Road – Services Rendered
12:37 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Citation Issued
3:20 p.m. Accident (Hit and

Editor's Note: People in this country are presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a court of law. Police provide us with the information you read on this page as public record information. If you or any suspect listed here is found not guilty or has charges dropped or reduced, we will gladly print that information as a follow-up upon being presented with documented proof of the court's final disposition.

Run) Palmer Road – Investigation Pending
4:15 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Referred to Other Agency
6:45 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Referred to Other Agency
9:42 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Advised Civil Action

Saturday, Jan. 2
1:12 a.m. Ambulance Request Robbins Road – Referred to Other Agency
2:19 a.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
10:38 a.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – Services Rendered
12:13 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report West Street – Investigated, Report Filed
12:21 p.m. Vandalism Upper Church Street – Services Rendered
2:55 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call West Street – Services Rendered
5:59 p.m. Alarm Fire Mechanic Street – Referred to Other Agency
6:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation South Street – Written Warning
8:26 p.m. Ambulance Request South Street – Investigated, Report Filed

Sunday, Jan. 3
8:34 a.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Dale Street – Services Rendered
9:04 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Belchertown Road – Written Warning
10:37 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Written Warning
6:58 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Services Rendered
7:20 p.m. Ambulance Request Morse Avenue – Services Rendered
8:23 p.m. Motor Vehicle Violation West Street – Criminal Complaint Issued

2020-2021 Ware parking lot rules

Residents may purchase parking permits for the year. The cost is \$30 per vehicle/trailer for the year (Free for veterans). Parking permits are valid Dec. 1, 2020 through Nov. 30, 2021.

The rules and regulations listed below address parking between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m. in municipal lots located on Parker Street and Pleasant Street. There is no overnight parking on town streets from Dec.1 (or the first plowable snowfall) through March 31.

1. Residents wishing to park overnight in municipal lots shall register their vehicle/trailer with the Town Manager's office.

Each vehicle/trailer will receive a municipal parking sticker which must be displayed on the back of

the rearview mirror. CALL 413-967-9648, ext. 101 for details.

Each vehicle/trailer must fit into a single parking space and must adhere to the Winter Parking Regulations for moving said vehicle/trailer for plowing purposes of municipal lots.

2. Vehicles/trailers parked overnight in municipal lots without a sticker will be ticketed and may be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

3. Vehicles/trailers must be moved from municipal lots the next business day after a snow event between 7 and 10 a.m. Vehicles/trailers in the lots during those hours will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

4. All vehicles or trailers shall have an active registration with the

MA Registry of Motor Vehicles.

5. Vehicles or trailers shall not be leaking any excess fluids.

6. Vehicles or trailers shall not be left on blocks or other types of stands or any blight issues.

7. Visitors' temporary parking approval can be obtained by contacting the Ware Police Department at 413-967-3571.

8. The Town reserves the right to modify these rules due to public safety needs.

The Town of Ware, via the Ware Police Department, reserves the right to remove/tow (at the vehicle/trailer owner's expense) any vehicle or trailer that fails to comply with the above rules and regulations or for any reason seen fit by the Ware Police Department.

Hardwick Police Log

For the week of Dec. 28-Jan. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 96 building/property checks, one animal call, 13 emergency 911 calls, four radar assignments, 15 directed/area patrols, 13 traffic controls and 47 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Dec. 28
7:43 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Ruggles Street – Unknown Outcome

Tuesday, Dec. 29
5:13 p.m. Phone – Medical Alarm Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
7:12 p.m. 911 – Complaint/Motor Vehicle Operations Main Street – Spoken To

Wednesday, Dec. 30
3:39 a.m. 911 – Welfare Check Church Lane – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:37 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital
9:47 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made

Thursday, Dec. 31
1:14 a.m. 911 – Unattended Death Church Street – Investigated
12:54 p.m. Phone – Fraud Turkey Street – Report Taken
6:20 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road –

Written Warning
7:18 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Arrest(s) Made
8:35 p.m. Phone – Welfare Check Ludlow – Merge
11:38 p.m. Phone – Complaint Pine Street – Negative Contact

Friday, Jan. 1
2:04 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
2:14 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
3:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
3:13 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Citation Issued
3:33 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
4:01 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
4:09 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Petersham Road – Written Warning
5:02 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
5:12 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued
6:50 p.m. 911 – Gunshots Pine Street – Negative Contact
9:31 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Turkey Street –

Transported to Hospital

Saturday, Jan. 2
7:22 a.m. 911 – Utility Issues Barre Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency
8:46 a.m. Phone – Fire, Illegal Burn/Permit Pine Street – Extinguished
3:05 p.m. Phone – Property Damage Barre Road – Report Taken
5:18 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning
5:37 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Lower Road – Summons Issued
7:23 p.m. 911 – Suspicious Activity Hardwick Road – Negative Contact

Sunday, Jan. 3
9:58 a.m. Phone – Threat Main Street – Investigated
1:30 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency North Road – Transported to Hospital
2:08 p.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Hardwick Road – Services Rendered
9:55 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Muddy Brook Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Monday, Jan. 4
7:12 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

JOB POSTING

Youth Engagement Coordinator

Quaboag Hills Prevention Partnership & Town of Ware

Overall Duties:
The Youth Engagement Coordinator will strategically identify, recruit, and engage with individuals and organizations serving youth and young adults to bring a ‘youth voice’ and participation into planning processes and activities that deliver proven prevention strategies to reduce youth substance use in the Quaboag Hills region. The Youth Engagement Coordinator will continually help build the capacity of and sustain the Partnership’s work with youth on underage drinking, nicotine and marijuana use, insuring that programs and activities are youth-driven and youth-led. Will work with Prevention Partnership team to ensure that required reports and data collection are completed.

Qualifications:
B.A. or B.S in Public Health or related field preferred. Prior experience in health-related outreach/communications with youth and young adults, community organizing and health planning. Understands unique needs of and works effectively with youth/ young

adults. Excellent writing skills, including promotional/outreach materials; knowledge of the workings of municipal government; strong computer skills including knowledge of social media tools that reach youth. Must demonstrate: sensitivity to, and awareness of cultural, racial, ethnic, economic, and social diversity including LGBTQ; awareness of community strengths and rural culture; ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders; ability to work independently and as part of a team; ability to maintain objectivity, fairness in dealing with people.

Salary & Hours:
Position is a Town of Ware employee and funded by a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); position 28 hours per week with potential for the job to become full-time in the future. Hours are primarily 9-5 Monday through Friday; some evening/weekend meetings and events.

To apply for the position, E-mail a Cover Letter and Resume to:
Gail Gramarossa, Project Director, Quaboag Hills Prevention Partnership
ggramarossa@townofware.com



New Braintree Police Log

For the week of Dec. 28-Jan. 4, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 24 building/property checks, four radar assignments, two motor vehicle stop, 16 directed/area patrols, eight traffic controls and three emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.

Monday, Dec. 28
2:01 p.m. 911 – 911/Hang-up Call Scott Road – Checked/Secured

Wednesday, Dec. 30
6:04 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle Accident Barre Road – Report Taken
7:43 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Ware Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Thursday, Dec. 31
9:50 a.m. Phone – Complaint Cemetery Road – Report Taken

Friday, Jan. 1
11:17 a.m. Phone – Disturbance Utley Road – Report Taken

Saturday, Jan. 2
7:47 p.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Gilbertville Road – Taken/Referred to Other Agency

Sunday, Jan. 3
6:04 p.m. 911 – Misdial Gilbertville Road – Spoken To

The deadline for submissions for this sports section is the Monday before publication by noon.

To send in information, contact Sports Editor at 413-283-8393, send an e-mail to sports@turley.com or send it through the mail to: Turley Publications c/o Sports Editor, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

obituaries

John F. Lagacy

MONSON - John F. Lagacy, 92, passed away Sunday, January 3, 2021 at Chestnut Hill in East Longmeadow. John was born in Hartford, CT to the late John G. and Caroline E. (Dezalia), Lagacy. He made his home and raised a family in Monson since 1962. John, known to family and friends as Jack retired from Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) as a railroad electrician after 45 years in 1990. He was a communicant of St. Patrick's Church in Monson. Jack was a simple man enjoying simple pleasures. He loved hunting, particularly deer hunting in western Mass and throughout New England. He was a longtime Boston Bruins fan and was lucky enough to experience their most recent Stanley cup runs with his family. He was a huge fan of the Great American Songbook era of music and Frank Sinatra was his favorite. He was also a huge movie buff; action films in particular, and he never met a western he didn't like. He enjoyed classic cars spending many years working on his own vintage

Cadillac, and also spent earlier years on model railroading. Most of all Jack loved spending time with his family and put-tering around the house on various car and home improvement projects. Jack leaves his loving wife of 58 years Adine Althea (Chamberlin) Lagacy and their four children; Maria Bandy, and her partner Kevin Martin of Claremont, NH, James Lagacy and his wife Heather Mach of Ware, Lisa Kowal and her husband Andy of Southampton, and John Lagacy and his wife Renee of Tehachapi, CA; eight grandchildren, Terry, Brian, Eli, Shannon, Dina, Jillian, Nicholas and Brandon; brothers, Edward Lagacy and his wife Sue of Monson, Richard Lagacy of Palmer, Donald Lagacy and his wife Terry of W. Springfield; sisters, Shirley Demusis and her husband David of Springfield and



Doris Vancini and her husband Bob of Ludlow, and many nieces and nephews. Jack was predeceased by his brothers Robert and Raymond Lagacy and his sister Carolyn Lagacy.

Funeral services will be held Monday, January 11, 2021 in Lombard Funeral Home. A visiting hour will be held from 10-11am with a service at 11am in the funeral home followed by burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson. We ask that attendees adhere to social distancing and face covering requirements. In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in John's name to St Patrick's Restoration Fund PO Box 473 Monson, MA 01057 or to the Springfield Rescue Mission 10 Mill St. Springfield, MA 01108. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Nancy A. Dean

CHARLTON – Nancy A. Dean, 60, of Charlton, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, of complications from the COVID virus. She was born in Ware. Nancy was the daughter of the late Russell O. and Susan E. (Goodfield) Dean, and lived many years in New Braintree with her family. The last 11 years were at the Overlook Masonic Health Care Facility in Charlton.

She was a graduate of Pathfinder Regional High School in 1979. She worked at Quaboag On the Common Nursing Home for more than 20 years.

Nancy will be lovingly missed by her sister, Cindy, and her husband, Orrie Mason, of Jefferson; her brother, Rodney O. Dean, of West Brookfield, and her cousin, Suanne, and her husband, John Despres, of Ware, along with many cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, Russell and Susan Dean, as well as her brother, Roger.

Nancy also leaves her niece, Bethany Greene, and her husband, William; two grand-nephews, Logan and Jacob, of Coventry, Connecticut; her nephew, Todd Mason, and his wife, Jillayne, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma; two grand-nieces, Alexandria, and her fiancée, Ryan McDonald, and Cassandra Mason, of Edmond, Oklahoma. Nancy held many offices in New



Death notices

Dean, Nancy A.
Died January 1, 2021
Varnum Funeral Home
West Brookfield

Lagacy, John F.
Died January 3, 2021
Lombard Funeral Home
Monson

Braintree and Sunrise Pomona Granges. She enjoyed sending cards of cheer, thinking of you and birthday greetings. She loved reading, doing word searches but was particularly fond of her cats. Nancy struggled most of her life with Myotonic dystrophy.

Our family deeply appreciates the wonderful care she received at Overlook Masonic Home. We will never forget the many acts of kindness and compassionate care she received during her stay. The nurse and doctors in ICU at UMass were caring and special to the very end.

A Celebration of Life for Nancy will be held at the Overlook Masonic Health Care Facility in Charlton at a later date. A private graveside service will be held in Hardwick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Nancy's name to: Overlook Masonic Health System. Mail to: Overlook Staff Appreciate Fund, c/o Josh Gaskell, 88 Masonic Home, Charlton, MA 01507.

Varnum Funeral Home, Inc., 43 East Main St., in West Brookfield, is assisting her family with arrangements.

An online guest book is available at varnumfuneralhome.com.

Ware River News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Small business can apply for a share of \$668 million in COVID relief funds

BOSTON — Bars and restaurants, gyms, retail shops, photographers and more can now apply for financial aid available through the state.

Up to \$75,000 per businesses is available pending eligibility.

In late December, Gov. Charlie Baker's office announced the launch of a \$668 million program to provide financial assistance to Massachusetts small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program in part relies on the pending federal COVID-19 relief bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law Sunday night. It's unclear, however, when the money earmarked in the federal legislation will flow to states, businesses and individuals.

Regardless of the developments at the federal level, the Baker-Polito Administration will start releasing millions in new funding to restaurants, retailers, and other small businesses throughout the Commonwealth as soon as this

week, Baker's office said.

Also last week, the Baker administration announced nearly \$49 million in grants through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC) COVID-19 Small Business Program to support over 1,158 small businesses. More than 10,000 applicants had sought relief in this grant round, according to Baker's office.

Additional grants will be made available to eligible small businesses through MGCC. The Small Business Grant Program was established in the fall and currently has a pool of eligible applicants awaiting funding. This additional funding will allow the state to award more of those pending applicants. Eligible businesses that already applied to the program, but were not funded due to limited funds available, will be prioritized for funding first and do not need to reapply.

The funds will also be used to stand up an additional grant program at MGCC. This program will

target the industries most hard-hit during the pandemic.

Eligible industries for the new program include: restaurants, bars, caterers; Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments; Gyms and fitness centers; event-support professionals (photographers, videographers, etc.); personal services; and retail

The new business relief program would offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for employee wage and benefits costs, space-related costs, and debt service obligations.

The online application portal for the new program opened Dec. 31 and will close on Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in early February.

Eligibility requirements and details on how to apply and are available at empoweringsmallbusiness.org.

RACE from page 7

100-lap event. The second will put some of New England's best Late Model stars together in ACT-style Late Models for their own 100-lapper on February 20. The final will help promote and preview the return of the historic Thompson 300, as Tour-Type Modifieds are used for a virtual 300-lapper on March 20. In real-life, officials are bringing back the Thompson 300 as part of the Sunoco World Series of Racing at Thompson in October of 2021.

"This iRacing series will give drivers and fans of Thompson Speedway a chance to come together during the cold winter months for some virtual racing," Kyle Souza, owner of Souza Media, said. "We're looking forward to watching the Thompson 300 in real-life, but we think this virtual experience will showcase some of what it will take to win the real-life event and get fans energized for the October 2021 race."

A maximum of 29 drivers will start each race, in order to keep the car count reasonable on a tight, banked track, and produce green flag racing. Out of the 29 competitors, 28 drivers will qualify through the heats, consi's and B-Main sessions, while one provisional is available for a most recent Thompson track champion or Modified, Late Model or Super Late Model champion, if needed. If no champions fail to qualify, the provisional may be used for a promoters option. Qualifying will begin at 10 a.m. on each of the race days, while there will also be multiple practice sessions prior to race day.

In order to be eligible for the events, drivers

must fit one of the requirements put in place by officials. Race officials have the final determination on eligibility and may elect to refund participants who register but don't fit qualifications. For all three events, drivers must be:

A current or past full-time weekly competitor in Late Models, Super Late Models or Modifieds

A current or past touring series competitor in Late Models, Super Late Models or Modifieds

Immediate crew member of one of the above drivers -- defined as either a car owner, crew chief or spotter.

If all spots are not filled for the event five days prior to event start, fans of Thompson Speedway, Modifieds, Super Late Models or Late Models will be able to register to fill the spots

The first 60 entered drivers will be registered for the event. Anyone who registers past that 60 number will be placed on a wait-list. Registration fees are \$15 per event, or \$45 for the entire series.

Registration can be completed at kylesouza.com/thompson-iracing-series. In order for a registration to be counted as one of 60, payment must be received. Drivers who complete registration will be invited to the league on iRacing directly to confirm their registration has been received.

A payout is guaranteed for the top-five at the end of each race, with a minimum of \$50 to win the feature. The virtual Thompson 300 will pay at least \$125 to win. Sponsorship opportunities for the series are available by emailing kylesouzamedia@gmail.com. Sponsorships will include full race deals and contingency awards.

Virtual Thompson Series schedule:

January 23: SK Modified -- 100 laps
February 20: Late Models -- 100 laps
March 20: Tour-Type Modified -- 300 laps

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

Tues. 10am - 4pm • Wed. 10am - 4pm
Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

CHURCH DIRECTORY

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
"An Open and Welcoming Faith Community"
Park & Pleasant Streets
P.O. Box 447, Ware, Massachusetts 01082
413-967-6100 trinityware.org
Jubilee Cupboard - 967-3274
The Rev. Mary E. Rosendale
D.D. - Bishop Episcopal Diocese Western Massachusetts
Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-2pm and by appt, Please call the cell number: 413-687-5568

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., Children's Chapel 9:30 a.m.
"You don't have to be Episcopal to share the Word and Fellowship of the Spirit" No matter who you are or where you have been, You are welcome.

THE JUBILEE CUPBOARD provides emergency food assistance and is open Thursday from 9 AM until noon. The location is next door to Trinity Church directly behind the Old Ware Fire Station. Please phone 413-967-3274. Donations of non-perishable food are welcomed by The Jubilee Cupboard during open hours only or make arrangements for pickup. Food may also be donated to The Jubilee Cupboard at a drop off box at the Big Y Supermarket in Ware. AA Thursdays, 7:30pm

UNITED CHURCH OF WARE
49 Church Street, Ware, MA 01082
413-967-9981

Office Hours: Monday 9-12/Tuesday 8:30-12:30/
Wed 9-2/Thurs 9-12/Friday closed

Saturday: Worship service 5:00 p.m (Communion offered each week, Healing Worship on second Saturday of each month)
Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Worship service 10:30 a.m. (Communion offered first Sunday of each month)
Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday School - 10:45 a.m., Children's Church after Children's Sermon each Sunday, Coffee hour after service
Tuesday: T.O.P.S. 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Weight Watchers 5:00-7:30 p.m.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
17 North Street, Ware
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
57 South Street, Ware
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Piotr Calik

General Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 9am - 12pm; Friday: Closed
Cemetery Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 10am - 2pm; Friday: Closed
Phone numbers: 413-967-5913; 413-967-4963
Fax Number: 413-967-4679
Emails: allsaintschurch17@gmail.com
stmaryschurch60@gmail.com
www.allsaintsware.org • www.stmarysware.org

Mass Schedule:
4:00 PM Saturday - All Saints
5:15 PM Saturday - St. Mary's

8:00 AM Sunday - All Saints
9:30 AM Sunday - St. Mary's
5:15 PM Sunday - All Saints

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday and Tuesday 7:30 AM at All Saints
Wednesday and Thursday 7:30 AM at St. Mary's
First Friday 8:00 AM at All Saints
First Saturday 8:00 AM at St.Mary's

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
All Saints - Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 PM
St. Mary's - Saturday before the 5:15 PM Mass

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Vigil: 5:30 pm at All Saints
Day: 7:30 am - All Saints
12:10 pm - St. Mary's
6:30 pm - St. Mary's

Parish Office for both Churches is located at 60 South Street, Ware - MA 01082.
Due to Covid-19 pandemic time our office is open by appointment only.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALOYSIUS
58 Church St., Gilbertville, Tel. 477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Saturday Confession: 3 p.m.; Vigil Mass: 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE MISSION
98 Church Lane, Wheelwright, MA
413-477-6493
The Rev. Richard Lembo, Pastor
Sunday 9 a.m.

HOLY CROSS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
61 Maple St., Ware, Tel. 967-3782
Fr. Senior Fryderyk Banas, Pastor
Sunday: 9 a.m. Mass

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH
(formerly QVBC)
258A Malbouef Road, Ware
Phone: 413-668-7041
Email: LBC7@gmail.com
Web: www.lbc7.com

Sunday Service times:
9:30am Prayer and Fellowship
10:00am Bible School
11:00am Worship Service

The LBC family of believers invite you to join us as we work together to serve God in our community.
We are dedicated to spiritual growth through purposeful prayer, truthful teaching, and practical preaching.
We rely on the Bible as our source of all Godly wisdom and truth.
We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior given freely by God and offered to all who choose to believe in Him.

GEORGE WHITEFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
33 West Main St, West Brookfield
Tel. 508-867-3667
Pastor Christy Wright

Worship and Sunday School, Sundays 9:30 am followed by coffee hour.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
108 New Braintree Rd., North Brookfield
774-286-1322
SUNDAY SCHEDULE Services start at 10 a.m.

TRI-PARISH COMMUNITY CHURCH
3 Oakham Rd., P.O. Box 202
New Braintree 508-867-3306

The Tri-Parish Community Church represents the communities of Gilbertville, Hardwick, and New Braintree. Our service will begin at 10:00. Bible Study begins on 9/13 at 8:15 am - 9:30am. Choir Rehearsals are at 9am and Sunday School returns on 9/13 at 10:00 am. We are worshipping at The First Universalist Church of Hardwick, 9 Ruggles Hill Rd. Hardwick through December.

All are welcome to worship and join in fellowship and light refreshment following the service.

Change of Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am - noon. Heidi Jeldres, Administrative Assistant. (508)867-3306 tri-parish@verizon.net.

Appointments can be scheduled at either the Pastor's office or at your home when needed. Please contact Pastor Deb to make arrangements. debasheps@aol.com or (413)478-0731. Beginning 7/6 our Worship Service move to The First Universalist Church of Hardwick through the end of the year. From 7/6 - 8/31 Worship will begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome.

The mission of the Tri-Parish Community Church is service to God by working together as a church to alleviate suffering and to foster hope, love and the word of Jesus Christ among our family and neighbors here and throughout the world.

It's always good to have a variety of voices in the pulpit. Come, support our worship leaders and enjoy the earlier service.

ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH
1082 Main Street, Warren, Tel. 436-7327
MASS SCHEDULE: Sundays 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH
2270 Main Street, West Warren
MASS SCHEDULE Saturdays 4 p.m.

QUABBIN VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
43 Main Street, Ware, MA
Sunday Morning service: 10:30am – 11:30am
For more info James Chaisson
774-200-0542
Email: goodnews@quabbinvalleychurch.net
Website: www.quabbinvalleychurch.net

KINGDOM BUSINESS R.E.A.C.H MINISTRIES
(Realistic Evangelistic Active Christian Hearts)
Pastor, Rev. Dr. Errol J. Estridge
58 Main St, Ware, MA Tel. 413-668-9981
email:thekingdombusiness.ware@verizon.net
Tues 6-7pm, Substance Recovery Ministry
Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm, Bible Study
Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm, Women Ministry
Friday 6:00-7:00 pm, Prayer Meeting
Saturday TBA, Men's Ministry
Sunday 10:30, Sunday Worship
C.H.A.N.C.E. Tutoring Ministry (Children Having a Nurturing and Caring Environment)
September - May, After school, Monday - Thursday 4:00-6:00pm

UPPER ROOM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
18 Central St., West Warren, Tel. 436-7559
Joel Hickey, pastor
Sunday: 10 a.m worship; Thursday: 7 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

UNIVERSALIST-UNITARIAN
St. Paul's Church of Palmer
1060 Central St., Palmer, MA, 283-8185
Sunday: 10:00 am service followed by coffee hour. Children's Religious Education also at 10:00 am.

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH
Sacred Heart Church 22 W. Main St., West Brookfield
& St. Mary Oratory 11 Lincoln St., Brookfield
508-867-6469
rectory@sacredheartwb.com
website: ourladyofthesacredheart.org
Mass Times:
M-Th 8:00am @ Sacred Heart
Saturday Vigil 4:30pm @ St. Mary
Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am @ Sacred Heart
Holy Day Vigil 7:00pm @ St. Mary
Holy Day 9:00am @ St. Mary & 7:00pm @ Sacred Heart

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST BROOKFIELD, UCC
36 N. Main St., Ware, Tel. 967-0211
Interim Pastor - The Rev. Stacey Kulgren
Worship 10 AM
Sunday School - 10 AM (except the first Sunday of each month)
Call for Bible Study and Youth Group meetings times.

WARE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
56a Main St., Ware, Tel. 967-0211
Pastor Jim Van Eten, B.A.D.F.
Sunday: 11 a.m. worship service, nursery and children's church, 4 p.m. worship service
Wednesday: 7 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Fellowship

WARE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Weekend Meeting
Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Midweek Meeting

EMMANUEL ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
25 Winthrop Terrace, Warren, MA 01083
(413) 436-5582

Fr. Christopher Nerreau
www.emmanuelorthodox.org
Morning Matins Sundays 9:00am
Confession 2nd Sunday of the month 9:00am or by appointment
Holy Mass Sunday's 9:30am, Coffee hour following Mass
Free Community Meal: First Tuesday of the month. All are welcome

Hardwick Town Election set for April 12

HARDWICK – The Annual Town Election will held on Monday, April 12. The last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification by Tuesday, Feb. 23, by 5 p.m.

The last day to file nomination papers with Town Clerk is on Monday, March 8, by 5 p.m. The last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Wednesday, March 10, by 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election, is on Tuesday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Voter registration will take place in the Myron E. Richardson Building at 307 Main St., Gilbertville on Tuesday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the Annual Town Election. Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if post-marked no later than the March 23 deadline.

Westfield Homeless Cat Project thanks supporters, seeks donations

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Homeless Cat Project would like to wish all our donors, volunteers, veterinary clinics and adopters a Happy New Year. WHCP is especially grateful for everyone’s support during a challenging year and we look forward to working with supporters in 2021.

Start the New Year with a little glam! WHCP is collecting new and gently-used jewelry, handbags, scarves and other women’s accessories which will be offered for sale during regular business hours at Choice Health, 307 East Main St. All proceeds will go directly towards the care of the shelter’s wonderful cats and kittens. Donations should be dropped off at 1124 East Mountain Road.

Now that the cold weather has arrived, there is an even higher demand to assist cats in need. Cat food donations, especially Fancy Feast and Friskies, as well as cat and shelter supplies such as litter, towels/blankets, household cleaners and paper products and monetary donations would be most appreciated.

WHCP never denies a cat or kitten in need and supporters’ generosity will allow the shelter to continue its efforts. Donations can be dropped off or sent to 1124

East Mountain Road, Westfield, MA 01085. Don’t have the time or inclination to visit the shelter? Check out the shelter’s Amazon wish list at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2UX2QSYX-RP3OG>. As always, the shelter thanks supporters for their help.

Speaking of Amazon, shoppers can also support WHCP and do their shopping at the same time through Amazon Smile. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. However, shopping on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of the shopper’s choice. Please go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate the Westfield Homeless Cat Project as the preferred charity.

Please note the shelter’s adjusted adoption clinic hours of Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. Please note that all safety protocols are followed, including facial coverings and hand sanitization. For more information please contact Denise at denisesinico@hotmail.com.



Turley Publications staff photo by Melina Bourdeau

IS THE EAST STREET UNDERPASS WALKWAY A PROBLEM?

WARE – SelectBoard members are trying to get in touch with the right person at MassDOT to discuss possible fixes for the East Street underpass bridge and walkway. Anyone who has had problems as a pedestrian or motorist related to the bridge or walkway may send a succinct account of the problem with their contact information to ekennedy@turley.com. People may be contacted for a future story as selectmen plan to discuss the matter at their Feb. 2 meeting.

HCC hires Amy Brandt as dean of Health Sciences and Culinary Arts

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College is proud to welcome Amy Brandt as its new dean of Health Sciences and Culinary Arts.

Brandt, who currently resides in Greene, N.Y., most recently worked as the associate vice president and dean of Health Sciences at Broome Community College in Binghamton, N.Y., which is part of the State University of New York system.

At SUNY Broome, she focused on developing partnerships with local area hospitals to address healthcare worker shortages and advocated for enhanced use of simulation to improve clinical education and position programs to remain current with emerging national trends in healthcare education.

At HCC, she will oversee seven academic programs: Foundations of Health; Medical Assisting; Medical Billing and Coding; Nursing (associate of science and practical); Radiologic Technology; Veterinary and Animal Science; and Culinary Arts.

She started her new job at HCC on Monday, Jan. 4.



Courtesy photo

Amy Brandt has been hired as the new dean of Health Sciences and Culinary Arts departments at Holyoke Community College.

Brandt holds a master’s degree in social work from California State University, Sacramento, and a PhD in social work from the University of California Los Angeles

After earning her PhD, she began working in education, initially at University of California

Berkeley in the School of Social Welfare, where she focused on program administration and teaching introductory social work courses.

In 2007, she transitioned to the community college setting in California, focusing on allied health education and has worked on allied health program development in California, Florida, Texas and New York.

Brandt has extensive experience working with state regulatory agencies, as well as with developing self-studies for programmatic accreditation. She has served as a site visitor for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, reviewing institutions for compliance with general education and educational effectiveness standards.

She has collaborated with multiple programs on developing assessment plans to assess educational quality and delivery and has co-led a variety of different campus committees related to program review, general education, professional development, COVID-19 re-opening and student retention and equity initiatives.

CANTON – The Salvation Army’s iconic Christmas Red Kettle Campaign, now in its 130th year, is struggling to meet its fundraising targets this year as communities nationwide continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. With just a few days remaining in this year’s campaign, donations to The Salvation Army’s Red Kettles are currently down by more than 50% statewide compared to last year. Since launching in mid-September, two months earlier than usual in anticipation of increased needs, the Massachusetts’ Division’s Rescue Christmas Red Kettle Campaign has raised less than half of this year’s goal of \$2.5 million.

The Salvation Army is facing a perfect storm this year as it contends with a massive spike in demand for services coupled with a precipitous decline in donations at Red Kettles. Based on the increased service already provided this year due to the pandemic, it is expected they will serve over 150% more people this holiday season. COVID-19 has not only created a much bigger demand for The Salvation Army to meet but has also decreased the number of traditional Red Kettles on street corners and at store entrances. Nationwide, The Salvation Army anticipates as much as a 50% decrease in funds raised through its Rescue Christmas Red Kettles Campaign this year owing to consumers car-

rying less cash, the closure of many brick-and-mortar retailers stores where kettles would traditionally stand, more online shopping, which means less foot traffic in shopping areas and increased unemployment and debt.

“This has been a difficult year for so many, now more than ever we are asking our communities to do whatever they can to help those in need,” said Major Marcus Jugenheimer, General Secretary of The Massachusetts Salvation Army. “We are doing everything we can to ensure every family has a meal and presents under the tree for kids this year. This year has brought unprecedented challenges for all of us, for those who can help ease the burden for others, we are asking you to do so. We thank those who have already donated and helped us make a difference.”

Since March, The Salvation Army has served more than 14 million meals to neighbors in need across the Commonwealth, serving every community and anyone who asks for help.

In response to the pandemic, The Salvation Army has made it easier and safer than ever to support its work this year. People can donate in several contactless ways, including visiting [www. RescueChristmas.org](http://www.RescueChristmas.org).

Sign up to give a sustaining monthly gift of \$25 to help The Salvation Army year-round. A \$25

monthly donation over one year provides: 240 meals to those most vulnerable, 11 nights of shelter for those living on the streets and 12 years of Christmas presents for one child.

Donate digitally with Apple Pay or Google Pay at any of our iconic Red Kettles around the country.

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Encourage friends and family to give virtually through options like peer-to-peer fundraising at salvationarmyma.org/rescuechristmas.

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Operating locally for more than 135 years, The Salvation Army has relied upon its iconic Red Kettle campaign since the 1890s. Donations to the kettles allow The Salvation Army to provide life-changing social services and other programs throughout the year. The Salvation Army provides a wide array of social services, including Emergency Assistance, After-School Programs, Emergency Disaster Services, Senior Services, homelessness services and Christmas Assistance.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art remains open in Amherst

AMHERST – The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst is a hidden gem amid the farmlands of western Massachusetts in Amherst, near Hadley. The institution displays more than 12,000 objects and illustrations split between multiple galleries, a studio and numerous libraries.

Named after famed 91-year-old illustrator and children’s book author Eric Carle, creator of, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” the Carle museum preserves, presents and celebrates picture books and picture book illustrations from all over the world.

Not unlike other similar institutions, the Carle encountered an

enormous obstacle in the shape of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the circumstances are not picturesque, the Amherst facility has pivoted in the face of adversity.

“Our staff has put a whole lot of time into thinking about the flow of the guest experience and making sure it’s a positive one but also a safe one for everyone. Like most museums, it’s required a lot of teamwork and communication and making sure we’re following state guidelines and policies,” Courtney Waring, director of education at the Carle.

The museum closed to the public in March at the onset of the pandemic and its doors remained

closed until Aug. 1. Virtual programming and online galleries kept the Carle afloat for nearly five months.

“A lot of us found ourselves working from home, but previous to that, our team had already been doing virtual programs, working with virtual groups, doing livestream events for classrooms and doing virtual and professional development workshops. We continue to do that, and, of course, we’re certainly seeing a higher demand for that now,” said Waring.

During the pandemic, museum staffers have focused on building a robust social media following, the accounts of which have been frequently used to post collections of

images and virtual access to galleries. Several exhibitions are available online in their entirety.

“We have two online exhibitions running right now that people can go to our website and see,” said Waring. “One is called, ‘Art in Place,’ and is all about social distancing in the studio. It’s been wonderful to hear from studio artists about what they’ve done during COVID.”

The second exhibition is titled ‘Now and Then’ and was originally created inside of the museum prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Due to its short running time, the team at the Carle elected to post it online.

As of Nov. 23, the museum remains open to the public on a part-time basis. The facility is open every Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m.

The Carle suggests that patrons reserve a time slot prior to their arrival, although walk-in guests will be welcomed as long as space allows. The museum has reduced its capacity limits in accordance with Massachusetts guidelines.

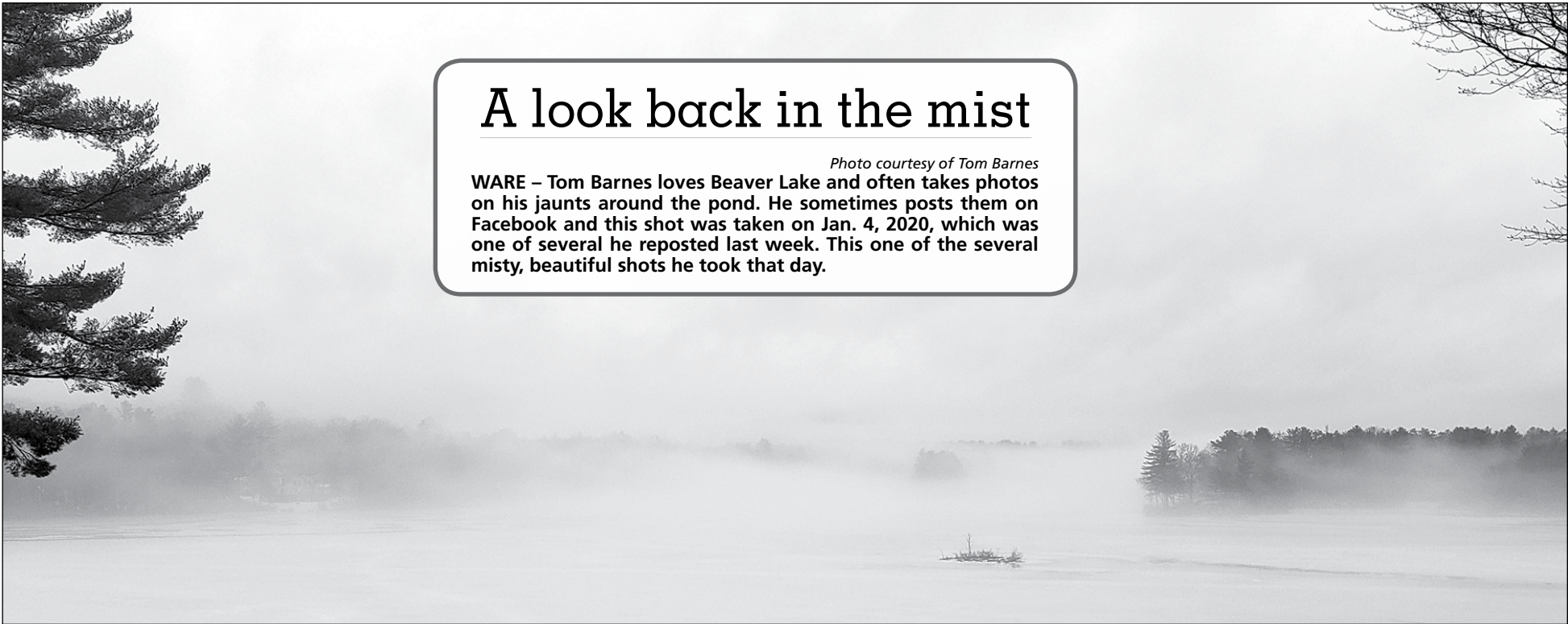
Waring that observed many, but not all, of the Carle’s regular patrons have returned to visit since the institution reopened in August.

“We do have museum members

that we miss seeing. We’ve seen some of them back, but not all of them have returned. We’re thinking about ways that we can still connect with them. Our museum shop has curbside pickup. If anyone would like to purchase something but not come into the building, we can arrange for curbside,” said Waring.

“Also, our museum members, who maybe aren’t ready to come back inside the museum and miss coming into the art studios, can contact us and arrange for an art project to-go bag, and that can also be picked up with our curbside service,” she continued.

More information on the Carle can be found at carlemuseum.org.



A look back in the mist

Photo courtesy of Tom Barnes

WARE – Tom Barnes loves Beaver Lake and often takes photos on his jaunts around the pond. He sometimes posts them on Facebook and this shot was taken on Jan. 4, 2020, which was one of several he reposted last week. This one of the several misty, beautiful shots he took that day.

T-BIRDS from page 7

working with the Blues, our season ticket holders, and corporate partners to ensure that 2021-2022 is our strongest season yet.”

A statement released by St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations/General Manager Doug Armstrong said, “professional sports have been impacted by the inability to open arenas and facilities to their fans. That is particularly true at the minor professional level where fan attendance is the lifeblood of business operations. We were truly excited to come to Springfield this season and are disappointed that COVID-19 has prevented this from happening. We look forward to working with the Thunderbirds in the 2021-22 season and beyond.”

For more information or to become a 2021-2022 Springfield Thunderbirds ticket member, call (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

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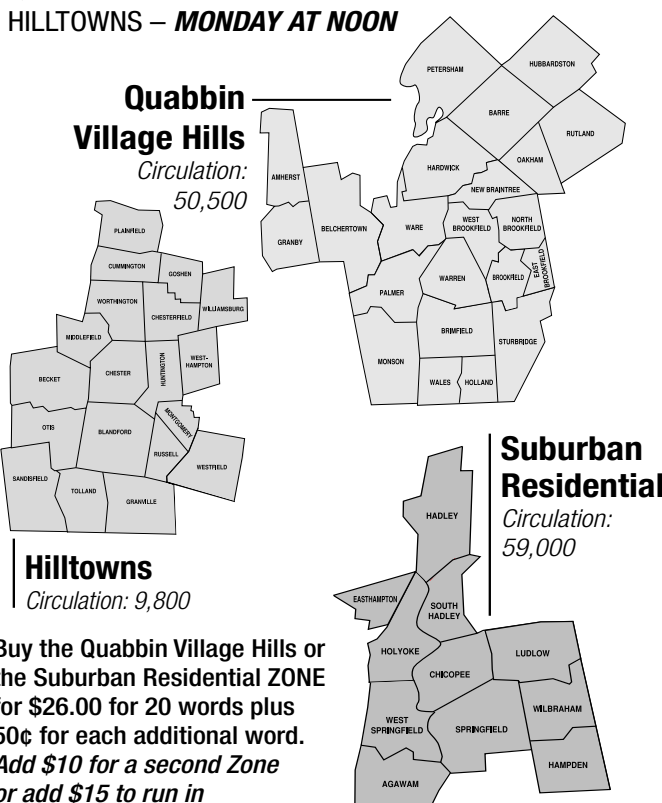
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15. Bearable
17. Disobedience
19. Express delight
20. Gov't attorneys
21. Wake up
22. A type of band
23. Remain as is
24. Turfs
26. Battle-ax
29. Volcanic crater
31. The mother of Jesus
32. One's life history
34. "Rule, Britannia" composer
35. Doubles
37. Jacob __, American journalist
38. House pet
39. S. African river
40. Broad sashes

CLUES DOWN
1. Currency exchange charge
2. River in Tuscany
3. Breakfast dish
4. Defunct European currency
5. Upper class young woman
6. Part of a purse
7. Self-contained units
8. Boxing's GOAT
9. Legislators
10. Flightless birds
11. U. of Miami's mascot is one
12. Floating ice
13. Low, marshy land
16. Seldom
18. Lyric poems
22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
23. Full extent of something
24. __ Claus
25. Naturally occurring solid material
27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
28. Thirteen
29. Partner to cheese
30. Member of a Semitic people
31. One thousandth of an inch
33. Former CIA
35. Most lemony
36. Engage in
37. Small Eurasian deer
39. Provisions
42. All humans have them
43. Swiss river
44. Storage term (abbr.)
46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
47. Dutch colonist
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Egyptian sun god
50. Flute
51. Flew off!
52. Scottish tax
53. Young women's association
54. Populous Brazilian city
55. Malaysian Isthmus
56. Pointed end of a pen

public notices

Trial Court of Massachusetts The Superior Court Harry Jekanowski, Jr. Clerk of Courts Hampshire County Superior Court 15 Gothic Street P.O. Box 1119 Northampton, MA 01061 Docket No. 2080CV00073 Abare, Mark vs. Fuller, Priscilla ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
RE: Fuller, Priscilla
WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by Mark Abare wherein it is seeking to: Enter a Civil Judgment against you.
We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on **02/03/2021** or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.

Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.


It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20-days before said return day in the:

Newspaper: Ware River News
City/Town: Town of Ware
Date Issued: December 23, 2020
Harry Jekanowski, Jr. Clerk of Courts
1/07, 1/14, 1/21/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division 15 Atwood Dr. Northampton, MA 01060 (413)586-8500 Docket No. HS20P0668EA Estate of: Patrick J. Brown Date of Death: August 31, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PROBATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Anne L.Brown** of Ludlow, MA.
Anne L.Brown of Ludlow, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.
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